**POEM**

**Australia**

**Alec Derwent Hope AC OBE (21 July 1907 – 13 July 2000)**

A nation of trees, drab green and desolate grey

In the field uniform of modern wars

Darkens her hills, those endless, outstretched paws

Of Sphinx demolished or stone lion worn away.

They call her a young country, but they lie:

She is the last of lands, the emptiest,

A woman beyond her change of life, a breast

Still tender but within the womb is dry.

Without songs, architecture, history:

The emotions and superstitions of younger lands,

Her rivers of water drown among inland sands,

The river of her immense stupidity

Floods her monotonous tribes from Cairns to Perth.

In them at last the ultimate men arrive

Whose boast is not: 'we live' but 'we survive',

A type who will inhabit the dying earth.

And her five cities, like five teeming sores,

Each drains her: a vast parasite robber-state

Where second-hand Europeans pullulate

Timidly on the edge of alien shores.

Yet there are some like me turn gladly home

From the lush jungle of modern thought, to find

The Arabian desert of the human mind,

Hoping, if still from the deserts the prophets come,

Such savage and scarlet as no green hills dare

Springs in that waste, some spirit which escapes

The learned doubt, the chatter of cultured apes

Which is called civilization over there.

**ANALYSIS**

**Critique of Australian Society in A.D.Hope’s “Australia”**

  A.D Hope was an Australian poet and essayist known for his satirical slant. He was also a critic, teacher and an academic. He was referred to in an American journal as “the 20th century's greatest 18th-century poet ".

  In the poem, "Australia” A.D Hope questions the idea that Australia is civilized. In the first five stanzas the poet talks about Australia. He describes how it is both a new and old country, geologically old but politically new and how it is both a European colony and an independent but a parasitical country. The next two stanzas talk about the wilderness  of Australia.

  The poet describes Australia as being a “ nation of trees, drab green an desolate Grey” that “darkens her hills “. He sees Australia as a country that is bleak and almost colourless and dull. This very much resembles the “field uniform of modern wars”, where everything is in shade of grey and green.

  The poet likens the country to a ‘sphinx'. The sphinx was a figure from Egyptian myths which possessed the body of lion and head of a man. This comparison could be directly related to the author's vision of Australia.

  The poet suggests that Australia’s realm of intelligence and power have now been “worn  away" which  suggests that  Australia used to be better than it is now . He believes that Australia is a country that is old. People  may call Australia “A young country, but they  lie". Australia to him is the “last of lands, the emptiest. A woman beyond her change of life, a breast still tender but within the womb is dry”. Australia may be considered as young by the world’s standards, but it is empty within. It has only external beauty but no inner beauty.

  Australia to him is devoid of culture which is “without songs, architecture, and history". He sees Australia as being a country that has neither historical background nor culture to speak of. He believes that it has the capabilities to do so, however, the ideas are drowned among “island sands”.

  Australia is portrayed as a country that is nothing at all, where there are “monotonous tribes from  Cairns to Perth” The five main cities are compared to "  five teeming sores “. The people who come to live in Australia do not boast of living but rather merely surviving.

  He believes that people who move here are rather unwelcome, and  they are  "second-hand Europeans”  that grow rapidly on these “alien shores". He sees these people as people who “drain” Australia” . For him it is a" vast parasite robber state” which has lost its original vitality.

  The last two stanzas refer to the modern civilization of  Australia. For Hope the civilization of Australia is nothing but the false imitation of cultured apes which is mistaken as modern civilization.

Woman to Child

**By Judith Wright**

You who were [darkness](https://literarydevices.net/darkness/) warmed my flesh  
where out of darkness rose the seed.  
Then all a world I made in me;  
all the world you hear and see  
hung upon my dreaming blood.

There moved the multitudinous stars,  
and coloured birds and fishes moved.  
There swam the sliding continents.  
All time lay rolled in me, and sense,  
and love that knew not its [beloved](https://literarydevices.net/beloved/).

O node and focus of the world;  
I hold you deep within that well  
you shall escape and not escape-  
that mirrors still your sleeping shape;  
that nurtures still your crescent cell.

I wither and you break from me;  
yet though you dance in living light  
[I am](https://literarydevices.net/i-am/) the earth, I am [the root](https://literarydevices.net/root/),  
I am the stem that fed the fruit,  
the link that joins you to the [night](https://literarydevices.net/night/).

Summary of Woman to Child

* **Popularity of “Woman to Child”:**The [poem](https://literarydevices.net/poem/) ‘Woman to Child’ is written by Judith Wright, one of the great Australian poets and environmentalists. It first appeared in her [anthology](https://literarydevices.net/anthology/) of poems published in 1949. The poem revolves around the heartfelt emotions of a pregnant woman. The [speaker](https://literarydevices.net/speaker/) illustrates how a mother embraces this special time and makes her unborn child the center of her attention. The appealing depiction of mother’s love adds further to the poem’s charm.
* **“Woman to Child” As a Representative of Motherhood:**This beautiful poem expresses the eternal love of a mother and her emotions about motherhood and pregnancy. Pregnancy regarded as one of the trying times for women is shown as a pleasant, life-altering, and candid time in this poem. The poem begins where [the mother](https://literarydevices.net/the-mother/) happily addresses her unborn child and takes pride in her ability to be a mother. She believes that her ability to give birth is what makes her special. She not only enjoys this new phase of her life but also sees her child as her whole world.  
  This new relationship gives her confidence and a unique sense of [power](https://literarydevices.net/power/). She compares her creation with God’s creation, believing she has been chosen to perform this grand task. The third [stanza](https://literarydevices.net/stanza/) highlights her experience as a pregnant woman as she states how a woman carries a baby in her womb with care. The last stanza, once again, captures her boundless love and affection as she celebrates her motherhood and compares herself to fertile earth that brings happiness to the world.
* **Major**[**Themes**](https://literarydevices.net/theme/)**in “Woman to Child”:**Motherhood, maternal love, and pregnancy are the major themes of the poem. The poem also discusses the stages of pregnancy, while capturing the acceptance, happiness, and love of a mother for her unborn child. Women around the world encounter different experiences when they get pregnant; some feel delighted, but for some, it is the hardest part of their lives. The speaker considers it as a blessing and the positive [tone](https://literarydevices.net/tone/) of her attachment with her unseen child suggests that giving birth is not something usual. One should not take these blessings for granted and enjoy every moment of this time.

Analysis of Literary Devices Used in “Woman to Child”

[literary devices](https://literarydevices.net/literary-devices/) are tools used by writers to convey their ideas, feelings, and emotions to the readers. Judith Wright has also employed some [literary devices](https://literarydevices.net/literary-devices/) in this poem to show maternal love. The analysis of some of the literary devices used in this poem is discussed below.

1. [**Assonance**](https://literarydevices.net/assonance/)**:** [Assonance](https://literarydevices.net/assonance/) is the [repetition](https://literarydevices.net/repetition/) of vowel sounds in the same line. For example, the sound of /i/ in “that mirrors still your sleeping shape”.
2. [**Alliteration**](https://literarydevices.net/alliteration/)**:** [Alliteration](https://literarydevices.net/alliteration/) is the repetition of consonant sounds in the same line in quick successions. For example, the sound of /l/ in “yet though you dance in living light”.
3. [**Anaphora**](https://literarydevices.net/anaphora/)**:** It refers to the repetition of a word or expression in the first part of some verses. The words “I am the” is repeated in the last stanza of the poem to emphasize the point. For example,

“I am the earth, I am the root,  
I am the stem that fed the fruit.”

1. [**Apostrophe**](https://literarydevices.net/apostrophe/)**:** An [apostrophe](https://literarydevices.net/apostrophe/) is a device used to call a person or something from afar. Here, the poet used an apostrophe to call her unborn child in the third stanza such as “O node and focus of the world,” expressing happiness by calling the child directly.
2. [**Enjambment**](https://literarydevices.net/enjambment/)**:** It is defined as a thought in a [verse](https://literarydevices.net/verse/) that does not come to an end at a [line break](https://literarydevices.net/line-break/); instead, it rolls over to the next line. For example,

“You who were darkness warmed my flesh  
where out of darkness rose the seed.”

1. [**Hyperbole**](https://literarydevices.net/hyperbole/)**:** [Hyperbole](https://literarydevices.net/hyperbole/) is a device used to exaggerate a statement for the sake of emphasis. Judith exaggerates about her ability to give birth in the second stanza, where she compares her creation with God’s creation.
2. [**Imagery**](https://literarydevices.net/imagery/)**:** [Imagery](https://literarydevices.net/imagery/) is used to make readers perceive things involving their five senses. For example, “You who were darkness warmed my flesh”, “I am the earth, I am the root” and “There moved the multitudinous stars.”
3. [**Metaphor**](https://literarydevices.net/metaphor/)**:** It is a [figure of speech](https://literarydevices.net/figure-of-speech/) in which an implied [comparison](https://literarydevices.net/comparison/) is made between the [objects](https://literarydevices.net/object/) that are different. The poet compares herself with various things in the last stanza of the poem. For example,

“I am the earth, I am the root,  
I am the stem that fed the fruit,  
the link that joins you to the night.”  
&  
You who were darkness warmed my flesh  
where out of darkness rose the seed.

Analysis of Poetic Devices Used in “Woman to Child”

Poetic and literary devices are the same, but a few are used only in poetry. Here is the analysis of some of the poetic devices used in this poem.

1. [**End Rhyme**](https://literarydevices.net/end-rhyme/)**:** [End rhyme](https://literarydevices.net/end-rhyme/) is used to make the stanza melodious. For example, “me/see”, “well/cell” and “escape/shape.”
2. [**Rhyme Scheme**](https://literarydevices.net/rhyme-scheme/)**:** The poem follows the ABCCB [rhyme scheme](https://literarydevices.net/rhyme-scheme/) and this pattern continues until the end.
3. [**Stanza**](https://literarydevices.net/stanza/)**:** A stanza is a poetic form of some lines. There are four stanzas in this poem with each comprising five lines, also known as a quintet.

Quotes to be Used

The lines stated below are suitable for a speech while talking about the greatness of mothers. These can also be used to talk about the status of women in the world.

**“**I wither and you break from me;  
yet though you dance in living light  
I am the earth, I am the root,  
I am the stem that fed the fruit,  
the link that joins you to the night.”