

## **Ozymandias** (by Percy Bysshe Shelley)

I met a traveler from an antique land,  
Who said—“Two vast and trunkless legs of stone  
Stand in the desert. . . . Near them, on the sand,  
Half sunk a shattered visage lies, whose frown,  
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,  
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read  
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,  
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed;  
And on the pedestal, these words appear:  
My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings;  
Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!  
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay  
Of that colossal Wreck, boundless and bare  
The lone and level sands stretch far away.”

### **\*Who are the main narrators in the poem?**

- 1) The "I" of the poem
- 2) The sculptor
- 3) Ozymandias

### **\*Who is Ozymandias?**

Ozymandias is a powerful ancient king called the **“King of Kings.”** He is not an ordinary person; he is very proud of his power and achievements. He challenges others to look at his great works, but time destroys everything, showing that no power lasts forever.

### **\*The Occasion of the Poem**

The poet wrote this poem after a statue of **Ozymandias** arrived at the **British Museum**. Percy Shelley and his friend decided to make the statue the subject of their poem because it represents power, pride, and how time destroys even great rulers.

### **\*Poet's Intention**

Shelley wants to show that humans should not be proud, because they are mortal and their power will not last forever. In the end, nothing remains after death, no matter how great a person once was.

### **\*Theme**

The poem shows that power and pride do not last forever. There is a **contrast** between **life and death**, and between the **statue** and the **empty desert**, showing how time destroys everything.