

What is the Central Theme of the Poem Ozymandias?

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What is the central theme of the poem and how is it presented?

In life, many rulers and kings build great empires. They think their power will last forever. But time shows that nothing lasts forever. The poem "Ozymandias" (1818), by Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822) teaches this important lesson. It shows how all human glory fades away with time.

The poem tells us about a broken statue. The traveler sees two huge stone legs and a damaged face in the desert. The face looks angry and proud. The inscription on the pedestal says, **"Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!"** This shows that the king, Ozymandias, thought he was the greatest. He believed that no one could match his power. However, the traveler sees only ruins around the statue. There are no grand works left to see. All that remains is sand and desert. This shows that Ozymandias's power is gone. The mighty king's works have vanished.

Shelley uses the ruined statue to remind us of a harsh truth. No matter how great someone is, time will destroy everything. Even the strongest rulers cannot escape this. The poem uses vivid images, like the "shattered visage" and "boundless and bare" sands, to show how all things decay. Through these images, the poet emphasizes that human pride is temporary and that nature and time are unstoppable forces.

In the end, Ozymandias teaches us that humility is important. No one's power can last forever. Time will always win.