

In Praise of Limestone Key Info

Writer: W. H. Auden | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Key Facts

- **Writer:** W. H. Auden (1907–1973)
 - **Original Title:** In Praise of Limestone
 - **Source:** First published in Horizon magazine (July 1948); later included in Collected Shorter Poems 1927–1957 (1958)
 - **Written Time:** 1947–1948 (composed while Auden was living near Naples, Italy)
 - **Published Date:** 1948
 - **Form:** Meditative lyric poem (philosophical and descriptive reflection)
 - **Genre:** Modernist Poetry / Philosophical Landscape Poem
 - **Tone:** Reflective, ironic, affectionate, and philosophical
 - **Point of View:** First-person poetic narrator (occasionally shifting to “we”)
- **Total Lines:** 118 lines
 - **Total Parts:** One continuous section (no formal divisions)
 - **Time Setting:** Post–World War II period (late 1940s)
 - **Place Setting:** Mediterranean limestone landscape — inspired by the hills of southern Italy (near Naples or Amalfi)