

September 1913 Quotations

Writer: William Butler Yeats | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Quotes

“Romantic Ireland’s dead and gone, / It’s with O’Leary in the grave.”

Explanation: Yeats mourns the loss of Ireland’s heroic and idealistic spirit. The Ireland of courage, poetry, and noble dreams has died with the old patriots like John O’Leary.

“Was it for this the wild geese spread / The grey wing upon every tide?”

Explanation: Yeats asks if Ireland’s patriots, called “the wild geese,” sacrificed their lives for such a selfish generation. It shows his pain and disappointment at the loss of national spirit.

“For this that all that blood was shed, / For this Edward Fitzgerald died?”

Explanation: The poet questions whether the blood and sacrifices of Ireland’s heroes, like Edward Fitzgerald, were for the present generation’s greed and moral decay.