

The Magi Literary Device

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

Figures of Speech:

- **Simile:** The faces of the Magi are compared to "rain-beaten stones," showing their age and weariness.
- **Metaphor:** The "uncontrollable mystery" refers to the divine or spiritual mystery surrounding the birth of Christ. It symbolized as something powerful and beyond human control.
- **Imagery:** Vivid images like "blue depths of the sky," "helms of silver," and "bestial floor" help create a clear picture of the Magi and their journey.

Symbols:

- **The Magi:** Symbolize spiritual seekers or wise men searching for divine truth.
- **Painted Clothes:** Represent the rigid, ceremonial roles and traditions of the past.
- **Pale, Unsatisfied Ones:** Symbolize the disillusioned seekers of spiritual fulfillment.
- **Ancient Faces like Rain-beaten Stones:** Represent the weariness and timelessness of spiritual quest.
- **Helms of Silver:** Symbolize authority, wisdom, or protection on the spiritual journey.
- **Calvary's Turbulence:** Represents the turmoil of Christ's crucifixion and the unresolved questions about faith.
- **Bestial Floor:** Symbolizes the humble, earthly setting of the Nativity, contrasting with divine mystery.

Literary Terms:

- **Allusion:** The poem refers to "Calvary," which is where Jesus was crucified. It shows the Magi's continued search for spiritual fulfillment.

Main Message:

- Human beings endlessly search for spiritual truth and meaning.

Lx Notes