

The Second Coming Quotations

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

Quotes

"Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold."

Explanation:

The poet says that the world is breaking down. The centre of life—like order, truth, and peace—is lost. Chaos is everywhere.

"The falcon cannot hear the falconer;"

Explanation:

The poet says that control is lost. The falcon (bird) flies too far and cannot hear its master. This means people are not listening to rules or leaders. Everyone is doing what they want.

***"The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity."***

Explanation:

Good people are confused and silent. But bad people are very active and powerful. This is dangerous.

***"And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,
Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?"***

Explanation:

The poet imagines a dangerous beast coming into the world. It is like a symbol of evil or destruction in the future.

