

Thomas Gray • *Elegy Written In A Country Churchyard*

merk at de alle fleste versene inneholder inverterte setningsledd!

	The curfew tolls the knell of parting day,	<i>curfew</i> : kveldssignal, opprinnelig (før Grays tid) en signal om ild skulle slukkes, osv.; i Shakespeare ofte assosiert til tiden der spøkelser forekommer <i>knell</i> : klokkeslag, ofte assosiert med tid og med døden <i>parting</i> : fra <i>to part</i> , å dra bort <i>lowing</i> : rautende <i>wind</i> : sno seg <i>lea</i> = <i>meadow</i> <i>plod</i> : traske
	The lowing herd wind slowly o'er the lea,	
	The plowman homeward plods his weary way, And leaves the world to darkness and to me.	
5	Now fades the glimmering landscape on the sight, And all the air a solemn stillness holds, Save where the beetle wheels his droning flight, And drowsy tinklings lull the distant folds;	<i>glimmering</i> : med svak lys <i>solemn</i> : høytidelig <i>droning</i> : durende <i>drowsy</i> : søvnige
	Save that from yonder ivy-mantled tower	<i>yonder</i> : der borte <i>ivy-mantled</i> : eføy-kappet
10	The moping owl does to the moon complain Of such as, wandering near her secret bower, Molest her ancient solitary reign.	<i>moping</i> : fra <i>to mope</i> , å sture, å bevege seg sakte rundt uten mål, og i eldre bruk, å være forvirret <i>bower</i> : et beskyttet sted en kan trekke seg tilbake til, en kvinnes rom i et slott <i>molest</i> : plage
	Beneath those rugged elms, that yew-tree's shade, Where heaves the turf in many a mouldering heap,	<i>rugged</i> : røffe <i>elms</i> : almer <i>yew</i> : barlind <i>heaves</i> : hever (seg) <i>turf</i> : torv <i>mouldering</i> : morknende
15	Each in his narrow cell for ever laid, The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep.	<i>rude</i> = <i>simple</i> , her viser det til de fattige (de rike er gravlagt i selve kirkebygningen) <i>hamlet</i> : liten landsby, husklynge
	The breezy call of incense-breathing Morn, The swallow twittering from the straw-built shed, The cock's shrill clarion, or the echoing horn,	<i>Morn</i> = <i>morning</i> <i>clarion</i> : trompet, brukt om skingrende toner - <i>clarion call</i> : fanfare <i>horn</i> : her særlig jakthorn
20	No more shall rouse them from their lowly bed. For them no more the blazing hearth shall burn, Or busy housewife ply her evening care: No children run to lisp their sire's return, Or climb his knees the envied kiss to share.	<i>rouse</i> : vekke <i>lowly</i> : ydmyk <i>hearth</i> : ildsted <i>ply</i> = <i>attend to</i> <i>care</i> = <i>duties</i> <i>lisp</i> : lespe (slik barn gjerne gjør)
25	Oft did the harvest to their sickle yield, Their furrow oft the stubborn glebe has broke; How jocund did they drive their team afield!	<i>oft</i> = <i>often</i> <i>sickle</i> : sigd <i>furrow</i> : furre <i>oft</i> : se vers 25 <i>stubborn</i> : sta <i>glebe</i> : eldre ord for jordstykke, fra latinsk <i>glæba</i> , jord <i>jocund</i> : i godt humør

	How bowed the woods beneath their sturdy stroke!	<i>sturdy</i> : sterk og pålitelig
	Let not Ambition mock their useful toil,	<i>mock</i> : gjøre narr av <i>toil</i> : slit
30	Their homely joys, and destiny obscure; Nor Grandeur hear with a disdainful smile	<i>Grandeur</i> : Storslagenhet <i>disdainful</i> : foraktfull <i>smile</i> : rimet med <i>toil</i> på Grays tid <i>annals</i> : årsfortellinger (i kontrast til mer sammenhengende historiebøker)
	The short and simple annals of the poor.	
	The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,	<i>heraldry</i> : heraldikk <i>pomp</i> : pomp & prakt <i>e'er</i> = <i>ever</i> (uttales i 1 stavelse)
35	And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave, Awaits alike the inevitable hour. The paths of glory lead but to the grave.	<i>inevitable</i> : uungåelig
	Nor you, ye Proud, impute to these the fault,	<i>ye</i> = <i>you</i> <i>impute</i> : tilskrive <i>o'er</i> = <i>over</i> (uttales i 1 stavelse)
	If Memory o'er their tomb no trophies raise,	<i>trophies</i> : troféer
	Where through the long-drawn aisle and fretted vault	<i>aisle</i> : sideskip eller midtgang i kirke <i>fretted vault</i> : utskåret tak
40	The pealing anthem swells the note of praise.	<i>pealing</i> : klangende
	Can storied urn or animated bust	<i>storied</i> : med en historie (f.eks. i bilder eller utfra en innskrift på utsiden) <i>urn</i> : urne <i>animated</i> = <i>life-like</i>
	Back to its mansion call the fleeting breath?	<i>fleeting</i> : forbigående <i>its</i> : viser til <i>the fleeting breath</i> <i>breath</i> : viser også til den mer abstrakte ånden (<i>the spirit</i>)
	Can Honour's voice provoke the silent dust, Or Flattery soothe the dull cold ear of Death?	<i>provoke</i> = <i>call forth</i> , her: vekke <i>flattery</i> : smiger <i>soothe</i> : lindre, berolige
45	Perhaps in this neglected spot is laid Some heart once pregnant with celestial fire;	<i>neglected</i> : forsømt <i>spot</i> : sted <i>celestial</i> : himmelsk (om stjernehimmelen) <i>fire</i> : vanlig metafor for intens energi og inspirasjon
	Hands, that the rod of empire might have swayed,	<i>rod</i> : stav, ofte symbol for kongelig makt <i>sway</i> : svaie, påvirke; en keiser har sine undersatte <i>under his sway</i>
	Or waked to ecstasy the living lyre.	
50	But Knowledge to their eyes her ample page Rich with the spoils of time did ne'er unroll; Chill Penury repressed their noble rage,	<i>ample</i> : fylldig <i>spoils</i> : krigsbytte, her i overført betydning <i>unroll</i> : en skriftrulle rulles ut <i>Penury</i> : armod <i>repressed</i> : undertrykket <i>rage</i> = <i>inspiration</i> (med forbinde i latinsk <i>furor</i> , som kan bety både intens sinne og gjerne dikterisk inspirasjon)
	And froze the genial current of the soul.	<i>genial</i> : trivelig, men her antakeligvis naturlig, opprinnelig, eller kanskje genialisk
	Full many a gem of purest ray serene,	<i>gem</i> : edelstein <i>ray</i> : stråle <i>serene</i> = <i>bright, clear</i>

	The dark unfathomed caves of ocean bear:	<i>unfathomed</i> : ikke kartlagt, ukjent <i>bear</i> : holder
55	Full many a flower is born to blush unseen, And waste its sweetness on the desert air.	<i>full many a flower is</i> = <i>very many flowers are</i> <i>blush</i> : rødme <i>desert</i> : ørken, men også fri for mennesker
	Some village Hampden, that with dauntless breast The little tyrant of his fields withstood; Some mute, inglorious Milton here may rest,	<i>Hampden</i> : John Hampden (1594-1643), engelsk politiker som slåss for frihet fra kongen under borgerkrigen <i>dauntless</i> : uredd <i>withstood</i> : sto i mot <i>mute</i> : stum <i>Milton</i> : dikteren John Milton (1608-74), antiroyalist
60	Some Cromwell guiltless of his country's blood. The applause of listening senates to command, The threats of pain and ruin to despise, To scatter plenty o'er a smiling land, And read their history in a nation's eyes,	<i>Cromwell</i> : Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658), engelsk politiker, riksforsstander 1653-58, avsatte kongen. <i>o'er</i> : se vers 38 <i>read</i> : kan også bety å oppfatte
65	Their lot forbade: nor circumscribed alone Their growing virtues, but their crimes confined; Forbade to wade through slaughter to a throne, And shut the gates of mercy on mankind; The struggling pangs of conscious truth to hide,	<i>lot</i> : skjebne, lodd <i>forbade</i> : forbød, hindret <i>nor...alone</i> = <i>not only</i> <i>circumscribed</i> : satte grenser for (subjektet er <i>lot</i>) <i>but</i> = <i>but also</i> <i>confined</i> : begrenset, stengte inne (subjektet er <i>lot</i>) <i>forbade</i> : se vers 65 (subjektet er <i>lot</i>) <i>slaughter</i> : slakt <i>mercy</i> : barmhjertighet
70	To quench the blushes of ingenuous shame, Or heap the shrine of Luxury and Pride With incense kindled at the Muse's flame. Far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife,	<i>pangs</i> : stikk <i>conscious</i> : samvittighet <i>quench</i> : slukke <i>blushes</i> : rødminger <i>ingenuous</i> = <i>genuine, natural</i> <i>shrine</i> : helgenskrin, tilbedelsested <i>kindled</i> : tent <i>madding</i> = <i>wild, furious, frenzied</i> <i>Far from the madding crowd</i> : senere brukt som romantittel av Thomas Hardy <i>ignoble</i> : ufin <i>strife</i> : konflikt
75	Their sober wishes never learned to stray; Along the cool sequestered vale of life They kept the noiseless tenor of their way. Yet ev'n these bones from insult to protect, Some frail memorial still erected nigh, With uncouth rimes and shapeless sculpture decked,	<i>stray</i> : gå seg bort, vandre bort <i>sequestered</i> : bortgjemt, skjernet <i>tenor</i> : grunntone <i>ev'n</i> = <i>even</i> (uttales i 1 stavelse) <i>insult</i> : fornærmelse <i>frail</i> : skrøpelig <i>still</i> = <i>always</i> <i>nigh</i> = <i>near by</i> <i>uncouth</i> : grove <i>rimes</i> = <i>rhymes</i> <i>decked</i> : kladd, bedekket
80	Implores the passing tribute of a sigh.	<i>implores</i> : ber om

	Their name, their years, spelt by the unlettered muse, The place of fame and elegy supply; And many a holy text around she strews, That teach the rustic moralist to die.	<i>unlettered</i>: analfabet; gravinnskrifter var kjent for ofte å ha stavefeil <i>the place of ... supply</i>: ersatter <i>strews</i>: kaste omkring seg <i>she</i>: viser til musen <i>rustic</i>: landlig
85	For who, to dumb Forgetfulness a prey, This pleasing anxious being e'er resigned, Left the warm precincts of the cheerful day, Nor cast one longing, lingering look behind?	<i>to ... a prey</i>: utsatt for (enten er det slik at <i>who</i> overlater <i>being</i> til å være utsatt for <i>Forgetfulness</i>, eller at <i>who</i>, som er utsatt <i>Forgetfulness</i>, fratredet <i>being</i>) <i>e'er</i>: se vers 34 <i>anxious</i>: bekymret, men muligens også bekymrende <i>being</i>: eksistensen eller livet selv <i>resigned</i>: overlatt til skjebnen; fratredet <i>precincts</i>: områder <i>day</i>: ofte brukt om livet, sml. Shakespeare Sonett 18 <i>nor cast = without casting</i> <i>cast</i>: kaste
90	On some fond breast the parting soul relies, Some pious drops the closing eye requires; Ev'n from the tomb the voice of Nature cries, Ev'n in our ashes live their wonted fires.	<i>fond</i>: kjærlig <i>relies</i>: stoler på, avhenger av <i>pious</i>: from <i>drops</i>: brukes gjerne om tårer, <i>tear-drops</i> <i>ev'n</i>: se vers 77 <i>ev'n</i>: se vers 77 <i>wonted</i>: tilvante
	For thee who, mindful of the unhonoured Dead Dost in these lines their artless tale relate;	<i>thee = you</i> (diktet henvender seg her til personen som skriver diktet!) <i>dost = do</i> <i>artless</i>: ikke kunstferdig; ærlig <i>relate</i>: fortelle <i>if chance = if by chance</i> <i>kindred</i>: beslektet <i>thy = your</i>
95	If chance, by lonely contemplation led, Some kindred spirit shall inquire thy fate,	
	Haply some hoary-headed swain may say, “Oft have we seen him at the peep of dawn	<i>haply = by chance</i> <i>hoary</i>: grå eller hvit med alder <i>swain</i>: gårdsarbeider, hyrde <i>oft</i>: se vers 25 <i>peep of dawn</i>: fast frase, <i>to peep</i> er å kikke eller kikke fram
100	Brushing with hasty steps the dew away, To meet the sun upon the upland lawn.	<i>hasty</i>: raske <i>lawn = cleared place in a wood</i>
	“There at the foot of yonder nodding beech That wreathes its old fantastic roots so high, His listless length at noontide would he stretch, And pore upon the brook that babbles by.	<i>yonder</i>: se vers 9 <i>beech</i>: bøketre <i>wreathes</i>: krølle og vende seg <i>listless</i>: giddeløs <i>pore</i>: studere nøye, vanligvis brukt om å sitte og henge over bøker <i>brook</i>: bekk
105	“Hard by yon wood, now smiling as in scorn, Muttering his wayward fancies he would rove;	<i>hard by = right by</i> <i>yon = yonder</i> (dialekt) <i>muttering</i>: mumlende <i>wayward</i>: egensindige <i>fancies</i>: fantastier, pussigheter <i>rove</i>: vandre

Now drooping, woeful wan, like one forlorn,	<i>now</i> : noen ganger <i>drooping</i> : hengende <i>woeful</i> : bedrøvet <i>wan</i> : blek <i>woeful wan</i> = <i>woeful and wan</i> <i>forlorn</i> : forlatt
Or crazed with care, or crossed in hopeless love.	<i>crossed</i> : en bruker å si at elskende er <i>star-crossed</i> , at det er deres skjebne å være forelsket
“One morn I missed him on the customed hill,	<i>morn</i> : se vers 16 <i>missed</i> : savnet <i>customed</i> = <i>accustomed</i> : tilvante
110 Along the heath, and near his favourite tree; Another came; nor yet beside the rill, Nor up the lawn, nor at the wood was he;	<i>heath</i> : heden <i>rill</i> : liten bekk
“The next with dirges due in sad array	<i>dirges</i> : klagesang (melankolske) <i>due</i> : som en har krav på <i>array</i> : oppstilling, klær
Slow through the church-way path we saw him borne.	<i>borne</i> : båret
115 Approach and read (for thou canst read) the lay, Graved on the stone beneath yon agèd thorn.”	<i>thou canst</i> = <i>you can</i> <i>lay</i> : kvad <i>graved</i> = <i>engraved</i> : innskrevet <i>agèd</i> = <i>aged</i> (uttales i 2 stavelser) <i>thorn</i> = <i>thorn-bush</i> : tornekratt
The Epitaph	<i>epitaph</i> : gravskrift
<i>Here rests his head upon the lap of Earth A youth to Fortune and to Fame unknown. Fair Science frowned not on his humble birth,</i>	<i>lap</i> : fang Dette verset har blitt til et fast ordspråk. <i>frowned not on</i> : så med glede på <i>science</i> = <i>knowledge</i> <i>on his ... birth</i> : bygger på arkaiske forestillinger om at gudene eller planetene bestemmer et persons liv ved fødselen
120 <i>And Melancholy marked him for her own.</i>	<i>melancholy</i> : i Grays tid et tegn på en verdsatt følsomhet og sympati for andre
<i>Large was his bounty, and his soul sincere, Heaven did a recompense as largely send: He gave to Misery all he had, a tear, He gained from Heaven ('twas all he wished) a friend.</i>	<i>bounty</i> : gavmildhet <i>sincere</i> : oppriktig <i>recompense</i> = <i>recompensation</i> <i>a ... as largely</i> = <i>as large a</i> <i>'twas</i> = <i>it was</i>
125 <i>No farther seek his merits to disclose, Or draw his frailties from their dread abode, (There they alike in trembling hope repose,) The bosom of his Father and his God.</i>	<i>disclose</i> : avsløre <i>frailties</i> : se vers 78 <i>dread</i> : fryktelig <i>abode</i> : bosted <i>trembling</i> : skjelvende <i>repose</i> : hviler <i>bosom</i> : barm, (i deres) skjød

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