

Mrs Woode

1924 - Hymanant (in Catshill Park Preserve)

136 2.5k > here tent, not house, primitive, bathing in beauty of Sun lft.  
eyes wandering over the hills in the horizon, as if she is trying to retrieve  
dreams from them

Panoramic: one hand on faithful dog, one on Brook of Brooks, caught in  
reversie, awakes + addresses visitors

Intro to a monologue, all about her voice (hoarse, male voice)

92, straight back, erect, clear eyed:

list of daily tasks she performs herself (trying to hear!)

[proto-Signist notions of productive work + connection to land, the active life,  
non-intellectual and scripture centered - This is the Supplement to  
Signist reality, which is irreverent + unconnected to tradition]

Anti-urban diatribes: City fold: arrogant, pre-aged even as young-

137 Invald kio jce 02.111 0.0.0 > retain - testimony, authority, witness,  
monopolizer of discourse

Foundation of  
space

Pilgrimage site, to W as paragon, epiphany, a source of wisdom + advice  
Already in 1924, this country life is deemed totally lost + alien to

the young city dwellers - idealization of a standard, a lost world  
[We know how how much domestic violence, mental illness, poor  
education, stultifying tedium, + suspicion of education was native  
to rural life, but none of that is hinted at here]

Their desire is carnal: secret of youth, stories of Golden Times,  
amusing tales about ancient ones

Her response: demystification, no secrets: plain hard work in nature  
- sense truth that has never varied from Adam + Eve

Ref to Adam + Eve confirms Edenic fix - no sexuality, longevity,  
beauty, plenty, happiness



Scorn (à la Maiwand): you race, compete, chase you run + then ask about the secret of life - all plain + open

Speech end w/ formulaic Then spoke T/A (Gander - Zathustra)

138 One-time curiosity about big city - 1863 bro. wounded -

chose + content in streets - city fix in her mind at that moment:

PINER - 23 FAND 770

Death for her is arrival, being called home by Good Father -  
life in the meantime before death as dear + beautiful

Alone, solitary American self - where are her children?

friends in hills, valley, flowers, all familiar

139 Privacy, the dog, 1<sup>st</sup> generation of loyalty - record of loyalty, protection, help - lifelong + buried on the slope of the hill near husband

Beauty + hard work leave no room for loneliness [not work + love]

Shut in during winter storms: loneliness, w/ dog + animals

140 <sup>Alone w/</sup> And her memories - self-sufficing

Admits to being emotional as she recalls father's house - has outlived them all  
Memories from childhood w/ the gang - hiding + seeking -

Red Indian Wars - happy endings - dressed up, war feathers, war paint

141 patriotism, song + anthems - war w/ Seymour, clanked on head by her -

Golden days, endless, happy, active, even School, fine, 5 benches

142 the Miss Virginia Clark - the best! education by stories, mythology

about Pocahontas, pioneers, George Washington, battles acted out -

143 British + Americans, but none wanted to play the British

Sundays: not because of Bible stories father read to family;

no church, too isolated - school/home divisions

\*144 I loved hearing those stories as much as I loved the beautiful  
fields + blue sky



no source of dissonance, divergence  
even to auditors

Mrs Woods

③

144 On Sundays even now, I sit at the opening of my front  
porch road & repetition of figure underscores Biblical typology - her life  
as being lived in biblical terms -

God's love can only be found in the Book & in these hills

Purity is organized religion w/ its social motives, entertainment,  
social display

[Jews mentioned only as synagogue in list of other houses of worship]

Stripes & varieties of denominations mean nothing to her - goes to all  
weddings & funerals - God could never fathom differences among them -

God gave streams & woods & fields as if to say: Look at them &  
learn my ways & find Me in the world - given to all & there  
here is my beloved book [an assumption of plain & evident  
meaning & teaching]

145 This abundance is available to all to take

Conclusion: from her crowd outside to drink at well where  
Jacob & Rachel met (but no stone on top)

Ends w/ the guests being ~~water~~ give single food of hospitality  
as out of the Bible

Adyll a genre that militates against discord, baneful fulfillment  
no connection to world of author/poet, unless he is among young listeners -  
Book of Books & Book of Nature as whole & perfect

The presentation of a type, not the whole world, not a social landscape -  
moment of America, pre-industrial, piety, transcendentalism,  
anti-institutional - altogether

OT/Heb. Bible: her faith totally devoid of Christology (only single Testament)  
heart primitive Christianity - before dogma, natural religion sacramental  
molded w/ a Book religion -

Is there any irony in this presentation?