

## A Legacy

Re the rhyme scheme, it is ABBA, which means the first and fourth lines rhyme, and the second and third line rhyme. It's that way all through the poem. See how the two yellow coded lines rhyme, and then the two green coded lines?

Friend of my many years!

Apostrophe (addressing a person who is not present)

When the great silence falls, at last, on me,

Metaphor (for death)

Let me not leave, to pain and sadden thee,

A memory of tears,

Antithesis (the negative idea, memory of tears, is balanced against its opposite, which is pleasant thoughts)

But pleasant thoughts alone.

Of one who was thy friendship's honored guest

And drank the wine of consolation pressed

Metaphor (consolation is a wine that was pressed, like grapes are pressed, from the sorrows of the person to whom this poem is addressed)

From sorrows of thy own.

I leave with thee a sense

Of hands upheld and trials rendered less,

The unselfish joy which is to helpfulness

Its own great recompense.

Allusion (referring to the time that someone "stole" healing and strength from the Master, meaning Jesus)

The knowledge that from thine,

As from the garments of the Master, stole

Calmness and strength, the virtue which makes whole

And heals without a sign.

Yea more, the assurance strong

Personification (love is referred to as living on, and filling the atmosphere with its song)

That love, which fails of perfect utterance here,

Lives on to fill the heavenly atmosphere

With its immortal song.

Overall, this poem is probably considered an elegy, since it is sad and thoughtful, and focuses primarily upon thoughts of death. Probably fits into the period called Romanticism (see glossary).