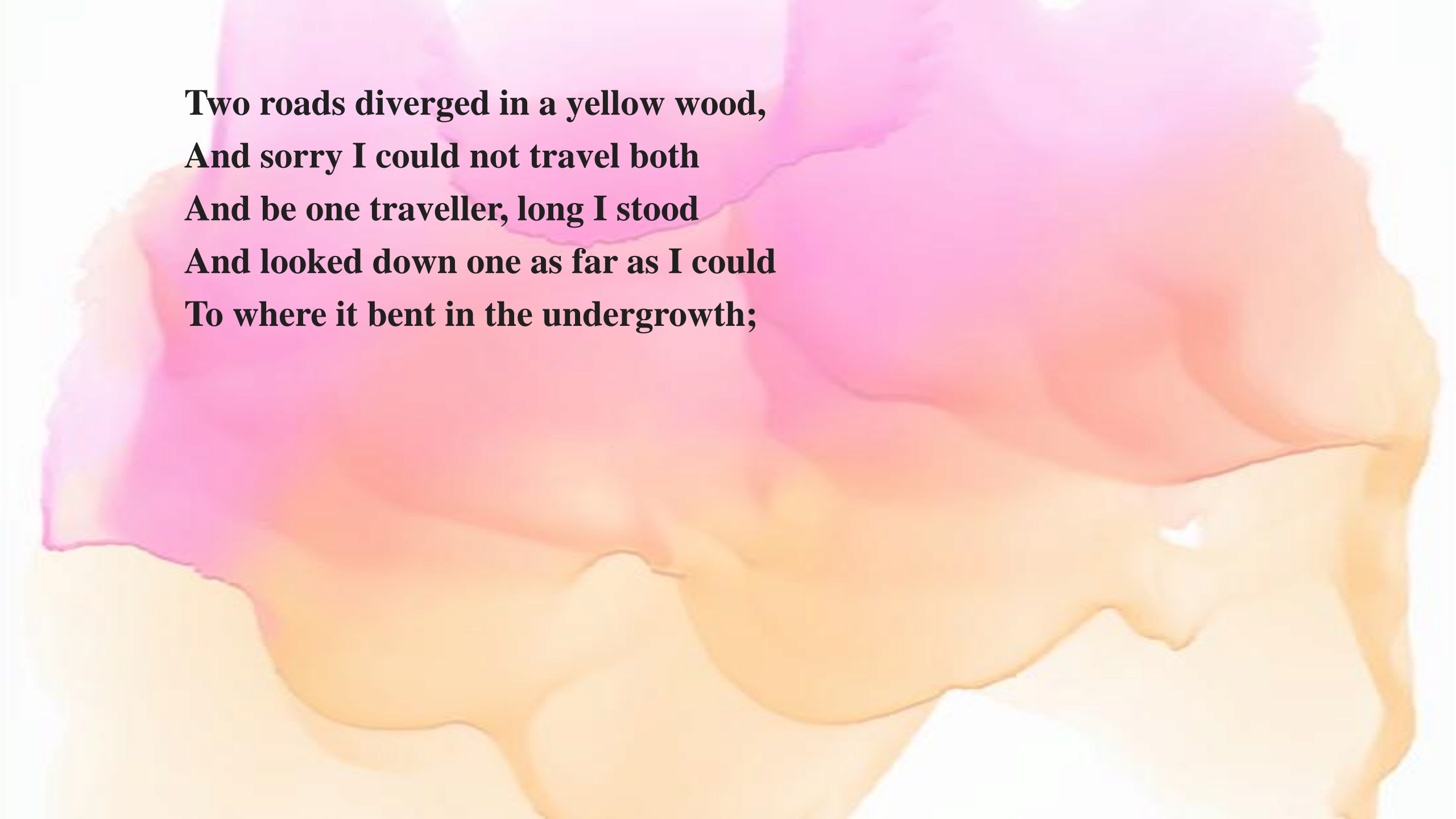


The background is an abstract watercolor painting in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. The paint is applied in broad, horizontal strokes, creating a textured, layered effect. There are some darker, more saturated areas and lighter, more washed-out areas, giving it a sense of depth and movement. The edges of the blue area are irregular and feathered into the white background.

# The Road Not Taken

## The Road Not Taken Poem Introduction

In the poem - 'The Road Not Taken', the road symbolizes our life. The poet says that the path that we don't choose in our life is **the road not taken**. He describes his feelings about that choice that he had left in the past. The path which we have chosen, decides our future, our destination. The important message that the poet wants to give is that the choice that we make has an impact on our future and if we make a wrong choice, we regret it but cannot go back on it. So, we must be wise while making choices.



**Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveller, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;**



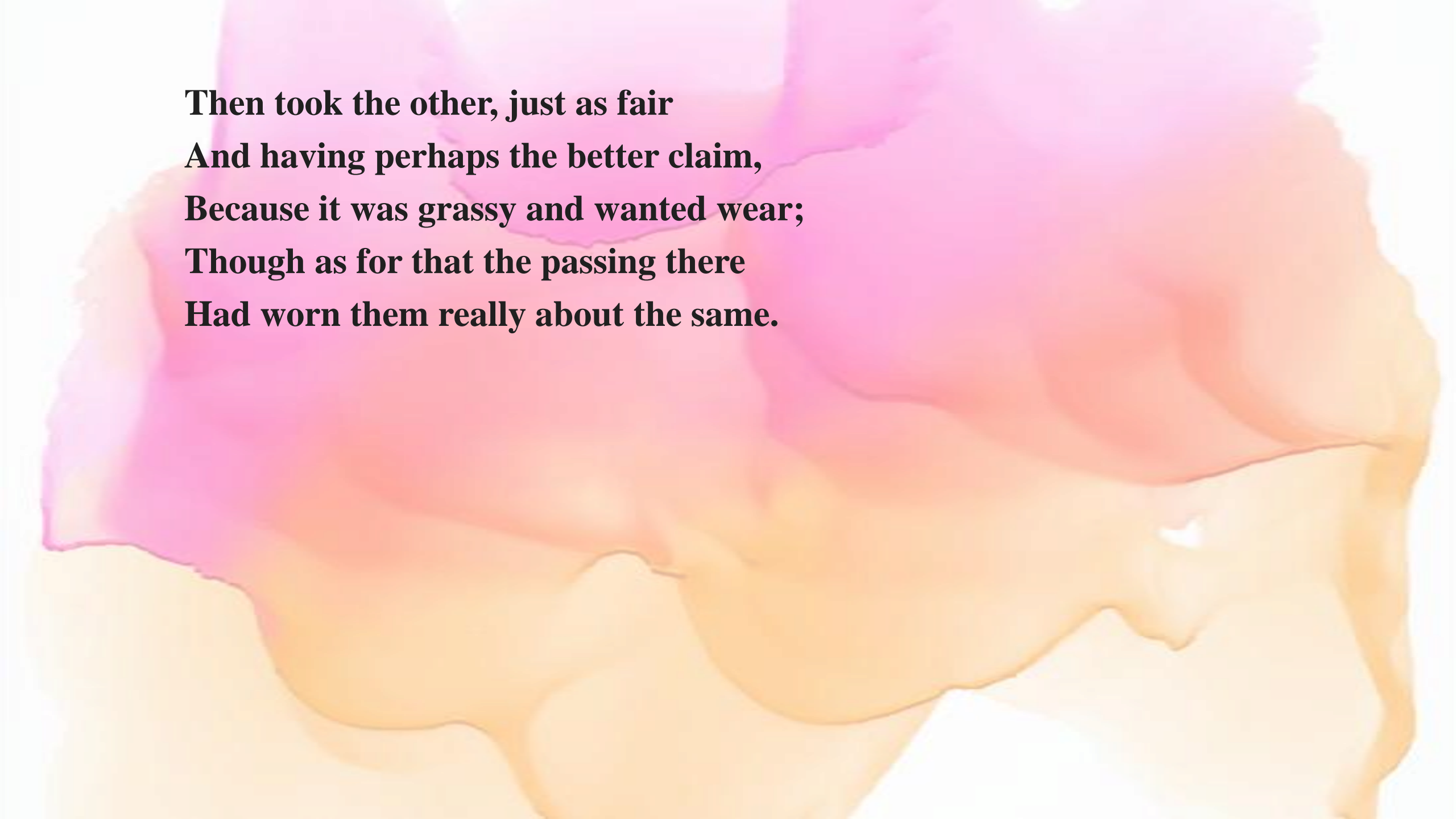
**diverged:** separated and took a different direction

**yellow wood:** a forest with decomposing leaves

**undergrowth:** dense growth of plants and bushes means the forest)



Once the poet was walking down a road and then there was a diversion, there were two different paths and he had to choose one out of them. The poet says that as he was one person, he could travel on one road only. He had to choose one out of these two roads. Yellow wood means a forest with leaves which are wearing out and they have turned yellow in colour – the season of autumn. It represents a world which is full of people, where people have been living for many years. They represent people who are older than the poet. The poet kept standing there and looked at the path very carefully as far as he could see it. Before taking the path, he wanted to know how it was. Was it suitable for him or no. He was able to see the path till from where it curved after which it was covered with trees and was hidden. It happens in our life also when we have choices, we have alternatives, but we have to choose only one out of them, we take time to think about the pros and cons, whether it is suitable for us or not and only then, we take a decision on what path we should choose.



**Then took the other, just as fair  
And having perhaps the better claim,  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;  
Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same.**



**fair:** As good as the other one,

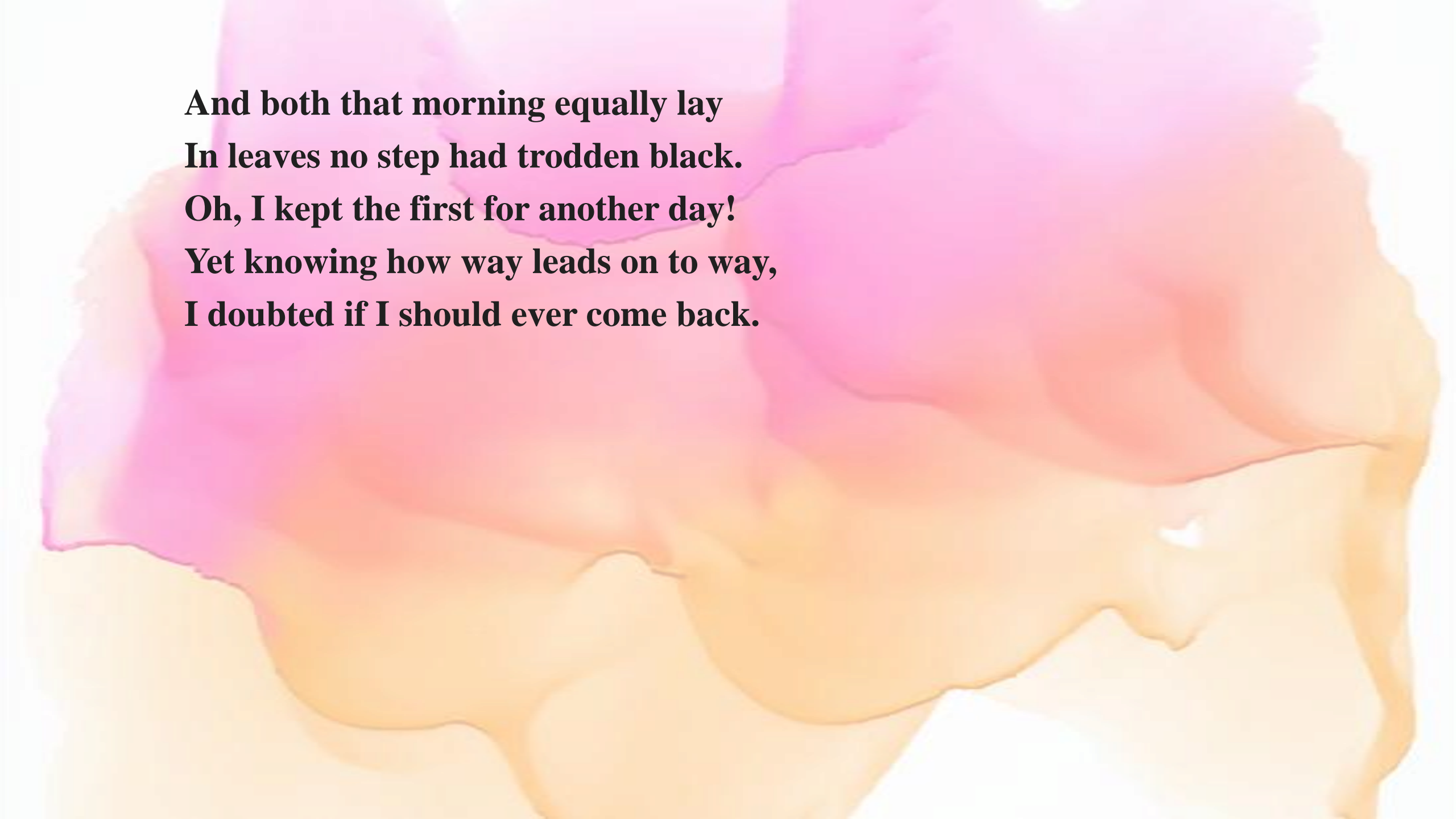
**claim:** Better option

**grassy:** unused

**wanted wear:** had not been used

The poet kept on looking at one path for a long time to check if it is the right path for him or not and then he decided and started walking on another path because he felt that the both paths were equally good. He says just as fair, so, he felt that both paths were equally good and started walking on one of them. He adds that maybe he felt that the path was better for him so he chooses it as it had grass on it which means that it was unused. Not many people had walked on this path earlier that is why this path was grassy. 'And wanted wear' means that it was not walked over by many people. After he walked on the path for some distance, he realized that both the paths had been worn out the same way. Both the paths were similar and worn out. Even in our life, we take any path or option but all of them have the same benefits, disadvantages, problems, challenges and we must face them. We think that we are choosing a better option, but it is not that way.

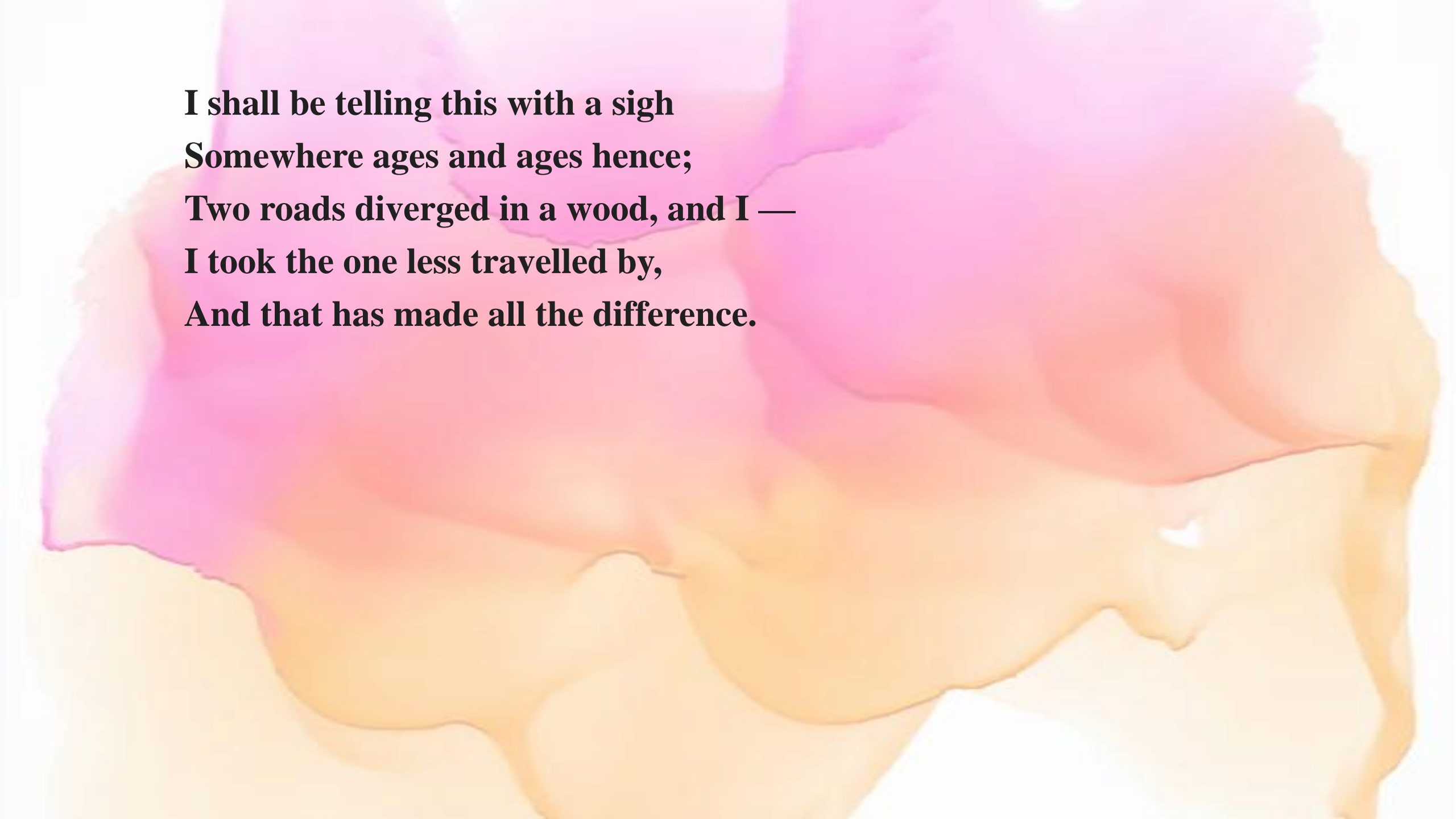




**And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.**

trodden means walked over.

The poet says that both the paths were similar that morning. Both had leaves on them and no one had stepped on them as they were still green in colour. He decided that that day he would take one path and keep the other path for another day, although he knew that one way leads on to another way. He knew that he could not go back on the choice that he had made. Similarly, even in our life once we choose an option, we must keep on moving ahead with that option and we never get a chance to come back and take the other option that we had left earlier.



**I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence;  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I —  
I took the one less travelled by,  
And that has made all the difference.**

**sigh: deep breath**

**hence: here, in the future**

He says that in the future, he will take a deep breath and say that once upon a time, he had reached such a point in life that there were two options for him and he travelled on that road which had been travelled upon by lesser number of people. That decision of his decided his future. Similarly, in future, when you grow up, then you will say that once upon a time, when you were young, you had two options. The choice that you made, made you what you became of it. This is a very strong message for all the students - that you should be wise and be careful while making choices out of the options that you have in your life because your future depends on the choice that you make today.



## **Literary Devices used in the Poem The Road Not Taken**

**1. Rhyme Scheme:** abaab

**2. Symbolism:** two roads that represents two or more choices in our life

**3. Anaphora:** ‘and’ repeated at the beginning of lines 2, 3 and 4

**4. Alliteration:** Wanted Wear ‘w’ sound is repeating

**i.** ‘first for’ – ‘f’ sound is repeating

**ii.** ‘though, that’- ‘th’ sound is repeating

**5.Repetition:** ‘Ages’ is repeated. ‘Two roads diverged in a wood’- this sentence is repeated in stanzas 1 and 4.

## **The Road Not Taken Summary**

The poet says that once, he was walking down the road and reached a fork. He could walk over one of the paths only. He took time to choose the right path. He inspected them to decide which was a better option and then chose the one which seemed less walked over. He kept the other one for some other day although he knew that he would never get the chance to walk over it. He would go further on the chosen path and not get a chance to go back on it. As he walked on the chosen path, he realized that both the paths were similar. He felt that his future depended on the choice that he made.

The background is an abstract watercolor wash in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. The paint is applied in broad, horizontal strokes, creating a textured, layered effect. There are some darker, more saturated areas and lighter, more diluted areas, giving it a sense of depth and movement. The edges of the blue wash are irregular and feathered into the white background.

Thank You