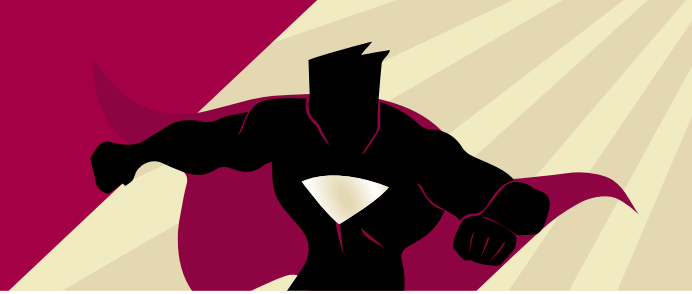


POEM ANALYSIS



Footprints in the Sand is a wonderful, deep sense poem by Mary Stevenson. The language that the poetess used writing her poem is rather appropriate for the subject matter. She used the common, rather simple language, but the subject matter, which she chose for her work, can be depicted both in artistic and in common language. Moreover, the used language does not distract from the meaning of the poem.

As one can see, the rhyme was not an important criterion for Mary Stevenson in creating this poem. Besides, there is no meter or rhythmic intent in *Footprints in the Sand*. It should be noticed that the author focused on the sense of the poem, and the melodiousness remained aside of her attention. In spite of such decision to avoid some features typical for poetry, Mary uses a lot of literary devices. For example, there are some metaphors in this poem. The metaphor “The times when you have seen only one set of footprints, is when I carried you” makes the impression that God literary carries a person. In fact, this means that he carries people’s burden; this way He helps people to overcome difficult times in their lives. It does not mean He does it instead of people, but he helps them. In addition, the poetess uses symbolism. The footprints are the main symbol in her poem. They symbolize the support from God. People do not often notice support when they are in need or have some problems; they believe that they are alone. Hence, the time of their challenges is the time when God does not leave them. This metaphor is used to show readers that God is always near if they believe in Him.

The pearl of the poem is its ending, which is rather unexpected. It shows readers that, while reading the poem, they have made the wrong conclusion. Moreover, readers agree with Mary Stevenson throughout the poem, thinking that *Footprints in the Sand* reflects the severe reality of life. Hence, in the end of the poem they cannot but agree with the author again,

since the statement that is used in the end of the poem is rather strong.

Footprints in the Sand is a very powerful poem that resembles a parable because of the absence of rhyme, meter and rhythmic intent, and because of its deep and edifying sense. People usually think that if they get into some troubles that happens because God leaves them. In fact, they overcome their troubles only because God is near them and helps them to cope with challenges on their ways. Unfortunately, people often forget about it. The poem explains readers that God is near as long as they believe in Him and His presence. It also shows that trust itself is very important. If a person believes that he or she has something, he or she will probably have it. The same is with the support of God.