

1818

OZYMANDIAS

Percy Bysshe Shelley

Shelley, Percy Bysshe (1792-1822) - English poet, he was a humanist and a Platonist who rejected all conventions which he thought stifled human freedom. After the suicide of his estranged first wife, he eloped with Mary Wollstonecraft (Shelley) who later wrote the classic, "Frankenstein." Ozymandias (1818) - This well-known sonnet was first published in Leigh Hunt's "Examiner." Opening lines: I met a traveller from an antique land / Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone ...

OZYMANDIAS

I MET a traveller from an antique land
Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert... Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed:
And on the pedestal these words appear:
'My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:
Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!'
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away.

THE END