

“Numberless are the world’s wonders”, but the most wonderful thing of all is man. In Sophocle’s Antigone, Ode 1, translated by Fitts and Fitzgerald, mentions how man can be powerful yet weak in the presence of gods. Like a train effect, without the submission to gods, there is no wisdom, and without wisdom, there is no happiness. Through figurative language, diction, and syntax, Fitts and Fitzgerald emphasize a tone of pride towards the power man has and a tone of hopelessness when facing death.

Comment [TK1]: The statement of situation identifies the author, title of the work, and the translator, as well as the topic of the ode.

Comment [TK2]: The theme is clearly stated

Comment [TK3]: The thesis statement is written in the assigned format and identifies two clear tones and topics: The thesis opinion also identifies which tone belongs to which topic: Pride towards mans' accomplishments and hopelessness towards death.

With Fitts and Fitzgerald’s use of figurative language, there is a comparison that creates a better picture in the mind. Phrases including, “thought as rapid as air”, “spears of winter rain”, and “late wind of death” clearly states how thoughts can flow by instantly, how man can use his skills to defeat the winter rain, and how death comes slowly but surely. Giving life to things that are of nature helps understand that it is the cause of the gods. With the idea that gods control the weather, there is a thought that man can defeat the gods’ wills. However, man cannot defeat the gods’ wills so the penalty for defeating the wills is death; that proves that man can be powerful yet restricted. Furthermore, there are things in which animals would fear but man would fear not including the “spears” of the rain or the “arrows of snow”. Nevertheless, things like the wind, where it can be calm and tranquil, can surprisingly overcome man. As a result, man is proud of their achievements yet they can not use their achievements to defeat the gods.

Comment [TK4]: The writer uses "chunks" of information. She quotes specific images in then states commentary explaining how the images create or reinforce tone.

Comment [TK5]: The writer creates coherence by adding commentary that links their analysis of imagery back to the tones she identifies in her thesis.

Diction supports the accomplishments and failures one man can make. Because Fitts and Fitzgerald used words such as “numberless” and “holy”, they point out that even with abundant wonders man can still be the best and that Earth is a property of the gods. Since there is an abundant amount of wonders, one would assume that there is nothing greater

than the other; on the other hand, there is. It is man. Given that man is the most wonderful thing of all time living on gods' land makes one presume that there must be a catch. The gods' catch is that man has to face death some point in their lives in return for them living on their territory. Consequently, man is not the most powerful in the world of wonders because they have no fight against death except for illnesses in which they can treat, which highlights the greatness of man. On the other hand, the word "anarchic" gives the thought that man is still disordered even with his own laws. Even though man is great with their intelligence, they still can be stupefied with the laws that they themselves had put out.

In addition, syntax has an importance in creating the tone of the Ode. "When the laws are kept, how proudly his city stands!" shows the pride man has when following its own rules. By comparison, "When the laws are broken, what of the city then?" demonstrates the hopelessness of man when he fails to listen to his own rules. As a result to the exclamation point followed by a question mark, there is a sign of the ups and downs of being man. At one point in their lives, they are as confident as a stallion but in the next minute, they can feel as worthless as an ant. In the beginning of the Ode, the first three stanzas are one sentence long explaining the magnitude of man and mentioning only once about man's weakness. In spite of the long detailed first three sentences, there are five sentences in the second antistrophe said with excitement, confusion, and assertiveness. The three exciting sentences proudly state the intelligence of mankind who would work both good and evil and keeping the laws. Subsequently, a question is asked with thoughts of the flaws of man and later a declarative sentence that evidently states what man does

Comment [TK6]: The writer offers some commentary on the **connotation of the diction** (anarchy) when she uses the words disordered and stupefied.

not want happening. This again demonstrates that man can be filled with confidence against animals but fear of their own kind because they have no control over themselves.

On the whole, Fitts and Fitzgerald used figurative language, diction, and syntax to reveal that even though man is magnificent, there is always something better than man which in this case, the gods. Man can defeat their own ideas that he created including “spears” and “arrows”, yet he cannot defeat the gods’ creations. That establishes that man is not as wonderful compared to the gods, but on gods’ land they are the most wonderful creatures of all.



Comment [TK7]: The writer uses "smart words" such as **declarative and exclamatory** to describe the sentence types and then explains how they demonstrate excitement and confusion about humanity's achievements and weaknesses.

Comment [TK8]: The conclusion brings the reader back to the theme to round out the ideas in the essay