

# Marina

Marina belongs to the collective called Ariel poems. After T.S Eliot's conversion to Anglicanism in 1927, he began to write a new kind of poetry which seems to represent a withdrawal from the outer world and an exploration of the inner life under the guidance of Christianity. "Marina" is based on Shakespeare's play *Pericles, Prince of Tyre*. Marina is the only daughter of Pericles. Being born at the sea, she was named Marina which means "of the sea". Soon Pericles loses her. But it so happens that he finds her later mysteriously. Eliot's "Marina" deals with the discovery of Marina by Pericles.

The epigraph taken from Seneca refers to the story of Hercules when he wakes up after a fit in which he had killed his own children, realising the horror of his deed, wondering where he was, 'What place is this? What region, what quarter of the world?' The horror of death suggested by this is set against the new life which Marina's reunion with Pericles symbolises.

In the opening lines of the poem, the poet describes the calm sea, beautiful sea shore, sweet scent of pines and the melodious singing of thrush. Pericles is happy that his long lost daughter has come back to him. In the next stanzas, the speaker seems to have slipped into a reverie, a state between dream and reality and obsesses over death. People, whether be evil, content or happy will be reduced to the reality of death. The poem ends, however, on an optimistic note. The speaker wants to resign his present life for a more valuable life symbolised by the arrival of his daughter and new ships while he hears the singing of woodthrush.

Eliot, in his poem, uses striking images and rhythms to parallel the emotions of overjoyed father who is also the speaker. Waves and returning are crucial to the poem not only in the matter of themes but also structurally. The title and the epigraph brush against one another. Pericles finds that his supposedly dead daughter is in fact alive. Sea and ship related imagery pervades the poem. The wave like rhythm though momentarily disturbed by the imagery of death. Yet the victory over death is decisive. Marina symbolises divine grace. She has brought her father “another life”. For the poet, Marina becomes the symbol of resurrection.