

## Stanza-by-Stanza Analysis

### Note :

“A *Poison Tree*” is a poem about anger, and, more importantly, some destructive consequences that can result when we cultivate our anger, rather than try a more productive outlet for this potentially dangerous emotion. The fact that the poet refers to anger as “wrath” suggests that the poem is about a more serious type of anger, a vengeful one!

	<b>Stanza</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
1.	I was angry with my friend: I told my wrath, my wrath did end. I was angry with my foe: I told it not, my wrath did grow.	The persona speaks of someone who he is angry with. After he said he was angry with his friend, he was able to get over being angry and forgot about it. Although it is quite the opposite, when the poet mentions that he allowed himself to get angry with his enemy.
2.	And I watered it in fears, Night and morning with my tears; And I sunned it with smiles, And with soft deceitful wiles.	The persona begins to make his anger grow and takes pleasure in it, comparing his anger with a tree or plant. The poet is creating an illusion with his enemy by pretending to be friendly.
3.	And it grew both day and night, Till it bore an apple bright And my foe beheld it shine, And he knew that it was mine,	The first two lines describes the illusion the persona has with his enemy is growing until it becomes tempting. (an apple) The enemy truly believed that the poet is his friend.
4.	And into my garden stole When the night had veiled the pole: In the morning glad to see My foe outstretched beneath the tree	The persona’s conclusion expresses his satisfaction when he sees his enemy fall to his tempting illusion and had consumed the apple and died. The poet had prevailed over his enemy.