A Considerable Speck

Style:

The poem is composed in blank verse, giving it a rhythm that looks like natural speech. The poem's conversational style makes it easily readable, but it has layered meanings which invite deeper analysis.

Tone:

The tone of the poem is playful yet reflective which blends lightheated humour with deeper philosophical insights.

THEMES

1.) **Human faculty of imagination:**

The major theme of the poem is the human faculty of imagination and thought. Frost appreciates the use of mind in all creatures whether they are significant or insignificant. The speck, a living mite, feels threatened. The way it uses its mind to escape from danger earns the appreciative attention of the poet. The poet watches the movements of the mite carefully. He decides not to kill it, simply because of its individual thinking and imagination. He seems to suggest that a thinking mite is better than a human being who is dumb.

2-) Satire on collectivistic ideology:

Frost clearly says that he does not have the "collectivistic regimenting love, with which the modern world is being swept". He does not like the controlled mind to think and act as others dictate. He wants every creature to think and act independently. He does not want to spare the life of the mite just out of an indiscriminate love for all creatures — as collectivistic culture enjoins on us. He also does not want to kill the mite out of anger of its transgressing on his page. There is an implicit satire on those who destroy masses for simple reasons. As the mite, the poet seems to believe, has no evil intentions, there is no reason for him to kill it.

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