

★ Funeral can be a metaphor for burying the past

★ Procession RITUAL

role of Irish women

personalified

putting family cars nose into line, the whole country tunes to the muffled drumming

→ coming together of Nth + Sth to discover a new ritual

of ten thousand engines. → unified

Somnambulant women, left behind, move through emptied kitchens → sleepwalking - effects of grief

imagining our slow triumph towards the mounds. Boyne Hopeful

Quiet as a serpent in its grassy boulevard,

Serpent: represents past coming back into present

the procession drags its tail out of the Gap of the North as its head already enters the megalithic doorway.

→ Boyne monumental to accommodate the issues?

Serpent → procession linking Christianity + Paganism

linked to the division of Ireland

the funeral procession

When they have put the stone back in its mouth we will drive north again past Strang and Carling fjords,

→ rolling of stones

burying all that has happened ← personification

places in centre of Ireland

the cud of memory allayed for once, arbitration of the feud placated, imagining those under the hill

unity in grief overcoming feud

people can change

disposed like Gunnar who lay beautiful inside his burial mound, though dead by violence

global

→ super far back in the PAST

→ A hero of Norse saga → revenge based blood feud story

★ Allusion to Viking myth

and unavenged. Men said that he was chanting verses about honour and that four lights burned

FOUR CORNERS of globe in corners of the chamber;

which opened then, as he turned with a joyful face to look at the moon.

hopeful redeeming

→ expands this to a global level from the local

→ finishing on a positive note

→ Gunnar is Christ-like: he was a sacrificial martyr

links between Christianity + Paganism

★ going so far back that the feud doesn't matter

an invitation to return to unity to placate

"this poem offers a dream of forgiveness"

*Heaney says poem offers "a dream of forgiveness"

★ move away from revenge + retribution towards acceptance + forgiveness