



## Let's imagine

You have been playing in the first team for two years. In the last practice before your final tour to play your biggest rivals, you break your ankle and cannot play.

You had to miss the match – and it was a blinder. And you couldn't even be there because you were in hospital after getting pins put into your ankle. Your team snatched victory from the jaws of defeat and won by 2 points.

The player who replaced you scored the winning goal.

You join them the next day for the celebration.

Everyone is laughing and sharing stories from the game.

They hand you the trophy to take a photo but you give it back. You think that you don't deserve it. You weren't there when it counted. And you will never get that game back.

How do you feel?



When I return from the land of exile and silence, do not bring me flowers.

Bring me rather all the dews, tears of dawns which witnessed dramas. Bring me the immense hunger for love and the plaint of tumid sexes in star-studded night. Bring me the long night of sleeplessness with mothers mourning, their arms bereft of sons. When I return from the land of exile and silence no, do not bring me flowers ...

Bring me only, just this the last wish of heroes fallen at day-break with a wingless stone in hand and a thread of anger snaking from their eyes.



- Jofre Rocha is a pseudonym
  - Real name Antonio Victor Fancisco de Almeida
- Angolan writer (born 1941)
- Activist for liberation of his country from Portugal
- Arrested twice
- After Angola gained independence (1975) he served in government
- Deputy Minister of External Relations then Minister of External Trade

- The speaker is anticipating and reflecting on his upcoming return home.
- He has been in exile while the struggle raged.
- The description of his country of exile as a land "silence" suggests an unpleasant/unfulfilling experience.
- The speakers feels guilty for not being home to be part of the "dramas" and to make a difference.
- He wishes he could have been part of the fight.
- As a consequence of his absence, he feels undeserving of a 'hero's welcome'.
- He pays respect to those who stayed.



## Structure

## Is it a sonnet?

- ✓ 14 lines
- ✓ Octave
- Sestet is split

## BUT it is

- A Structured argument
  - When I return
  - Don't bring me this
  - Rather bring me this...
  - But what really what I want is this...



**Tone** 





When I return from the land of exile and silence,

do not bring me flowers.



Anticipation
Could be + or -

Connotations of isolation, loneliness, punishment

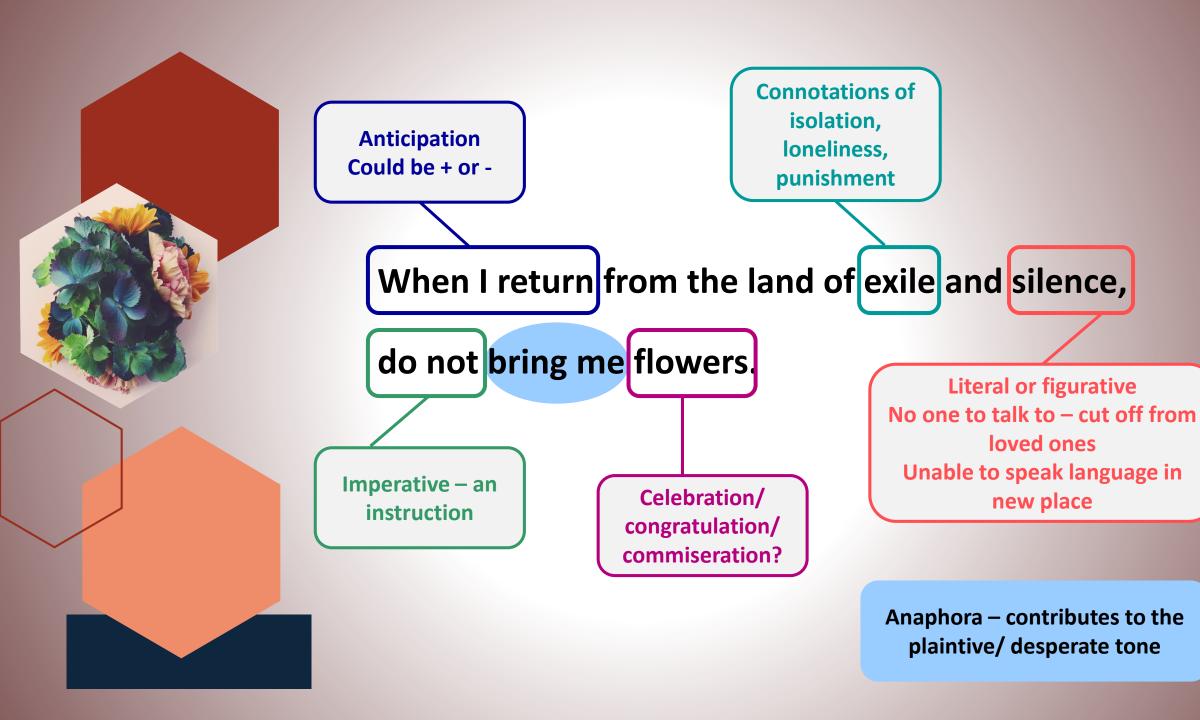
When I return from the land of exile and silence,

do not bring me flowers.

Literal or figurative

No one to talk to – cut off from loved ones

Unable to speak language in new place





Bring me rather all the dews.

tears of dawns which witnessed dramas.

Bring me the immense hunger for love

and the plaint of tumid sexes in star-studded night



An alternative to flowers

Speaking in absolutes

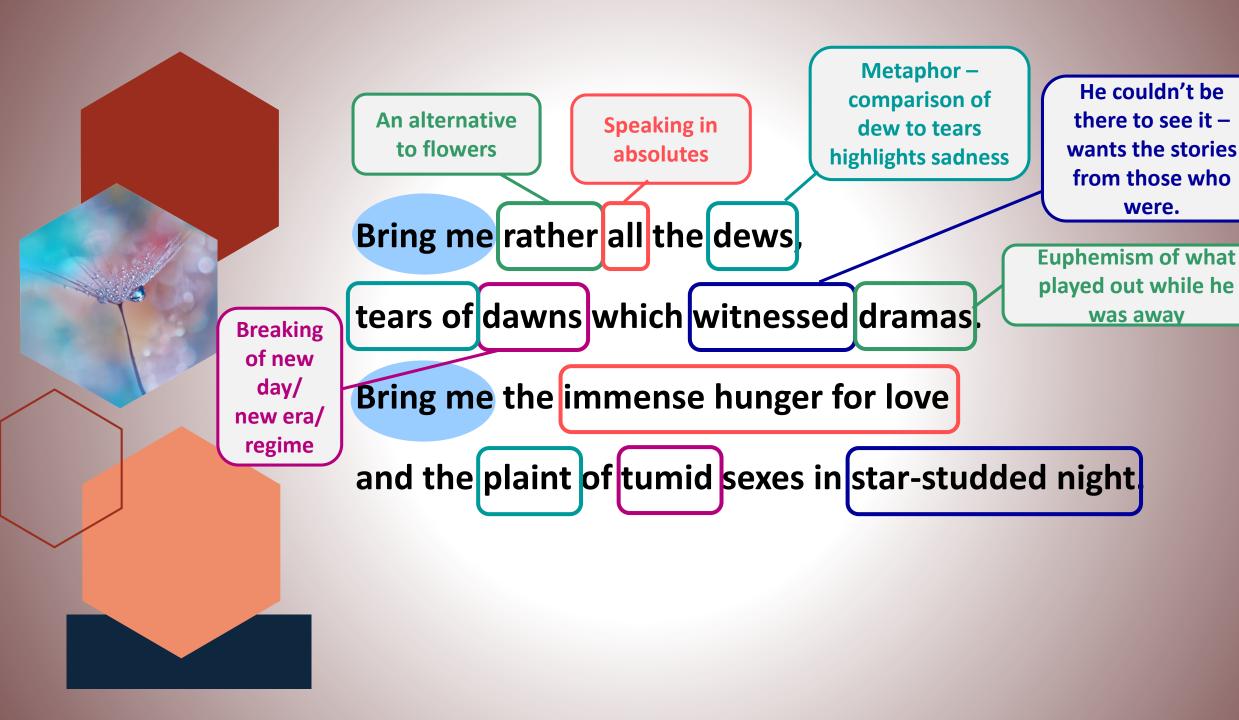
Metaphor –
comparison of
dew to tears
highlights sadness

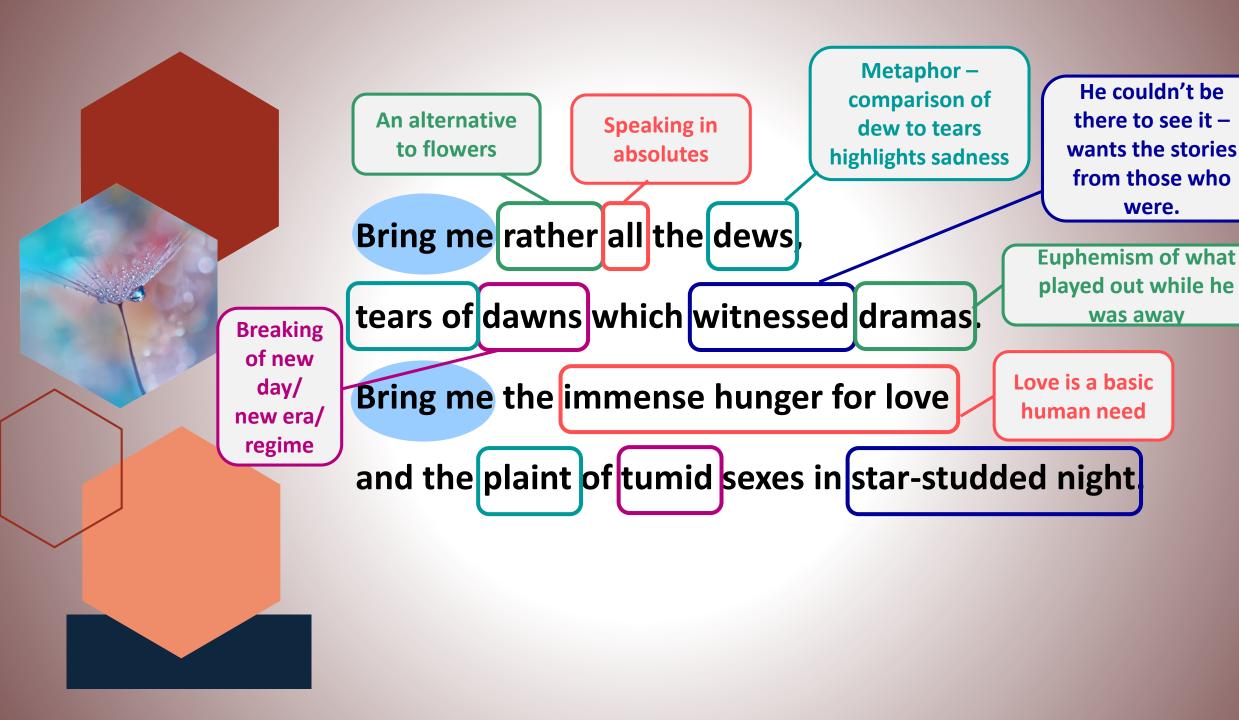
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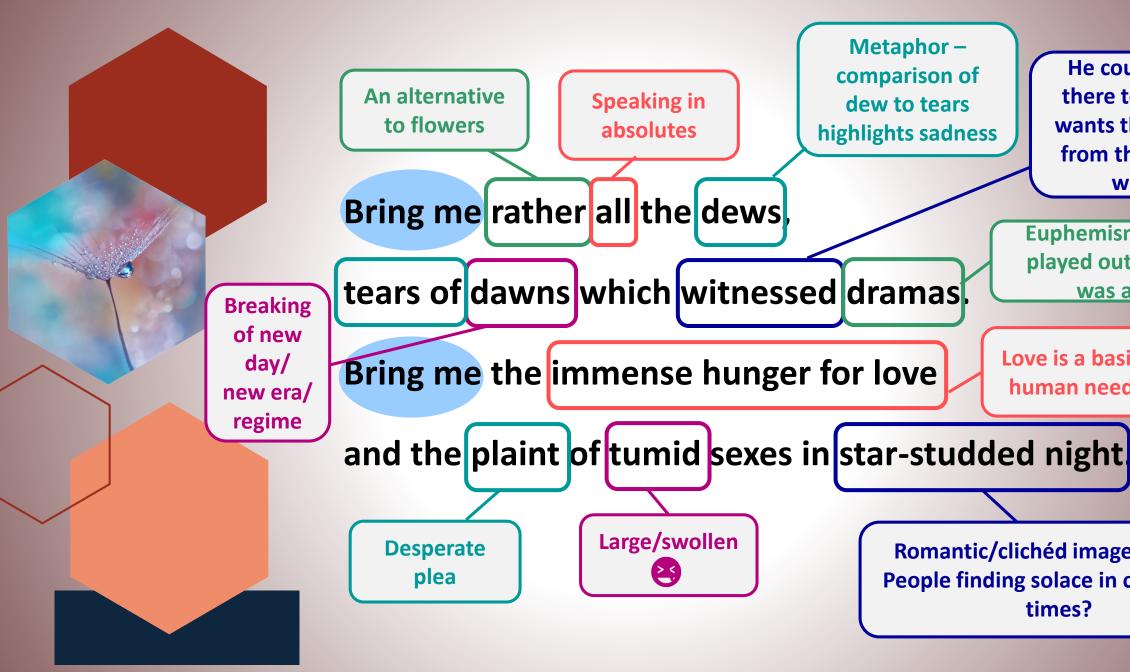
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He couldn't be there to see it wants the stories from those who

> **Euphemism of what** played out while he was away

were.

Love is a basic human need

Romantic/clichéd image of lovers **People finding solace in challenging** times?



Bring me the long night of sleeplessness

with mothers mourning, their arms bereft of sons.

When I return from the land of exile and silence

no, do not bring me flowers ...



The struggle was extended – night suggests dark times

Kept awake by anxiety/anticipation of trouble

Bring me the long night of sleeplessness

with mothers mourning, their arms bereft of sons.

When I return from the land of exile and silence

no, do not bring me flowers ...



makes a

children

The struggle was extended – night suggests dark times

Kept awake by anxiety/anticipation of trouble

**Emotive** image of a mother's empty arms

Bring me the long night of sleeplessness

with mothers mourning, their arms bereft of sons.

When I return from the land of exile and silence

no, do not bring me flowers ...



The struggle was extended – night suggests dark times

Kept awake by anxiety/anticipation of trouble

Emotive image of a mother's empty arms

Bring me the long night of sleeplessness

Alliteration –
repeated 'm'
makes a
moaning sound
to mimic the
cries of women
who have lost
children

with mothers mourning, their arms bereft of sons.

When I return from the land of exile and silence

no, do not bring me flowers ...

Commanding tone of the imperative and the double negative suggest indignation

Repetition of the opening lines to emphasise his message



Bring me only, just this
the last wish of heroes fallen at day-break
with a wingless stone in hand
and a thread of anger snaking from their eyes.



Redundancy emphasises that he is not asking for much

Bring me only, just this

the last wish of heroes fallen at day-break

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Redundancy emphasises that he is not asking for much

He does not consider himself one Another euphemism – out of respect or to assuage his guilt by not acknowledging the horror?

Euphemism –
their dying wish
Perhaps he
would like to
honour their last
requests as a
way to repay
their sacrifice

Bring me only, just this

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At the precipice of the new era (similar to dawn)



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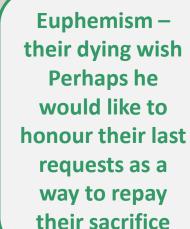
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Rudimentary weapon suggesting they were illequipped but fought anyway



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Rudimentary weapon suggesting they were illequipped but fought anyway Metaphor conveying the depth of rage of those who fought oppression. Snake is a symbol of danger/evil.

At the precipice of the new era (similar to dawn)