B. Yasmin Banu Assistant Professor Department of English Jamal Mohamed College Trichy -20

THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

-ROBERT FROST

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

ROBERT FROST WAS A CELEBRATED AMERICAN POET KNOWN FOR HIS REALISTIC DEPICTIONS OF RURAL LIFE AND HIS COMMAND OF AMERICAN COLLOQUIAL SPEECH. BORN ON MARCH 26, 1874, IN SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, FROST SPENT MOST OF HIS LIFE IN NEW ENGLAND, WHICH HEAVILY INFLUENCED HIS POETRY. HIS WORK OFTEN EXPLORED COMPLEX SOCIAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL THEMES, EARNING HIM FOUR PULITZER PRIZES AND WIDESPREAD ACCLAIM.

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear,
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two road diverged in a wood,
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference

Explanation:

In the poem, the road symbolizes our life, and the path that we don't choose is "the road not taken". The poet describes his life experience and says that long ago, he had two choices to make. He had chosen one and moved ahead with it. Now, if he wants to make another choice, he can't do so.