

WHITMAN MEMORIAL:

Homage to an American Sage



- Tim:** *(holding a lukewarm cup of coffee while looking the light shining through the air)* Whitman was more than a poet – he was a cultural icon. Along with Longfellow, Emily Dickinson, and Helen Jackson, he altered the American literary landscape. Many American 20th century poets are, in a sense, his grandchildren.
- Ted:** *(casting a skeptical glance at Tim while chewing some gum)* For some, perhaps. I think he's overrated. However, he was one of the icons from that era. In a sense, he represented the very core of the American experiment, raw and singing.
- Kris:** *(smiling faintly, looking at her fingernails then glancing at Ted)* Yeah, he was the Allen Ginsberg of the 19th Century.
- Terri:** *(tilting her head thoughtfully)* You could say that. Or perhaps Ginsberg was the Whitman of a century later? In many ways, they both sing the same wild, expansive hymn of life. Poets create their own tunes and not so different from musicians.
- Tim:** *(shrugging his shoulders, checking his cellphone while trying to feign politeness)* Whatever. . . Rhetoric has no end, but human life is short.
- Sam:** *(waving a final farewell with a theatrical air)* And so, my friends, is this conversation.

- T Newfields

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