

Analysis of Whoso List to Hunt

The poet has some desires for a woman whom we had not known yet and he is about to lose his own desires for that woman because he wants to learn whose desires aroused for that woman in the opening of the stanza. (1st and 2nd lines)

So, the hunting is a kind of metaphor which reveals the work of art, a kind of art of love, is hard for the poet. This hunting refers to following of a lover, then “who is the lover?” is the main problem of the first stanza but it is known that the poet is tired of hunting, following his lover and he means he is behind of all the other hunters he does not know. (3rd and 4th lines)

“Yet may I” refers to the idea of losing or not losing the hope that the poet feels during his hunting or during this love story. However, we understand that the poet has not lost his hopes for his lover. At the same time, we understand that his mind (the poet’s) is tired as well as his body in this hunting job. (5th line)

As the deer flees from the poet or hunter his mind is wearied although he comes close to the deer. That means, this love is futile. (6th line)

The poet is in a hard situation. He feels himself as if he were caught in a net while he was in the pursuit of the lover. He feels that his lover was running faster than him. He means that this kind of following is making himself weaker than ever because of his lover is like the wind which cannot be caught or held by him or any man. (7th and 8th lines)

In the sestet, the poet mentions another name or identity by saying “him,” “his time” to indicate that in the hunting he is not alone. There are other men following the same deer. That means there are other people who adore the woman whom the poet represents through the deer as a metaphor. (9th and 10th lines)

In lines 11-14, it is easily realised that the woman belongs to the court. She is one of the members of court by means of the diamond necklace around her neck. This necklace is a symbol that shows it is given to her by a noble man who adores her like the poet. In fact, there are not only words written “noli me tangere” for do not touch me in English. However, this allusion shows that there is a relationship between the king or the noble man and the woman apart from the poet. At the same time, Caesar as the ancient Roman Emperor represents the king of the age, Henry VIII. In the last line of the poem, it seems that for the king, the hunting of the deer, the woman in fact, is also a hard act. It means, although the king feels that the woman is in his hand as she is wild, she cannot be caught by any men even by the king. (11th – 14th lines)