

Creative Philosophy & Narrative Analysis - world shapers

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In her poem “world shapers”, Joanne Arnott argues that creation is not a singular closed doing, but a perpetual process made up of diverse beliefs and human action. Arnott’s poem opens with contrast and metaphor that explores the harmonious relationship between diverse creation stories. “tricksters & goddesses/fire & water/the one god, or all of the gods/working as a team” (Arnott, lines 5-8), her second stanza reads. This amalgamation of elements showcases different culture’s use of distinctly varied stories to explain the same truth. By presenting these opposite figures and forces side by side, Arnott alludes to the shared human perception and worldly creation, built up of individual beliefs. She uses repetition to emphasize the cyclical nature of humanity’s creation and destruction. The stanza “worldmakers/worldshakers/worldbreakers” (Arnott, lines 9-11) and phrases such as “there is no end to the doing & the undoing” (line 12) and “recreating us & recreating our world on a whim” (line 15) perpetuates this worldly cycle. “world shapers” shows that creation isn’t something finite and faded – it’s an ongoing process of higher powers and humanity. Arnott’s tone shifts throughout the text, beginning reflectively, and becoming more grounded and intense as she begins to speak of humans, and their power. Her lines “we keep re-inventing the cosmos & fighting/one another’s visions” (Arnott, lines 17-18) and closer; “we reinvent, we reshape the world every/single day” (lines 25-26) highlight this shift. She reminds the reader that creative power has been passed down to humans and empowers

the reader to honor this power. Arnott paints creation as an ongoing collaborative process molded by powers of the divine, and the multidimensional power of humanity.

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Works Cited

Arnott, Joanne. "world shapers." *Poetry In Voice*, 2010,
poetryinvoice.ca/read/poems/world-shapers. Accessed 17 May 2025.