

## “Psalm 32” Analysis Example 2

“Psalm 32” starts with a very dreary, almost paranoid tone that becomes more exhilarating, with a hint of condescension, as time goes on and the speaker talks about how they have confessed their sins. The speaker uses words such as “iniquity” and “guile” (line 3) to bring this point forward, by calling someone “blessed” if they do not have such qualities. He then goes on to describe how his “bones waxed old” with his “roaring all day long” (line 4) as the sins he carried stayed in the silence of his mind. In this silence, these sins began to grow and breed to weigh him down with guilt, which can be proven in the quote “thy hand was heavy upon me” taken from line 4. The former quote also refers to the expectation God has for sinners to apologize so that they may reach heaven, and, as he continued to hold all the wrong and guilt inside, his hope, or “moisture”, turned into “the drought of summer” (line 4) and would soon leave him with nothing left. That is, until the speaker “acknowledged my sin unto thee” (line 5). This brings about the change in tone as the speaker starts using words such as “forgavest” (line 5) and “godly” (line 6). This also changes the role of God from one of something akin to a burden to a savior as the sins of the speaker are taken away from him through confession. God is the speaker’s “hiding place” (line 7) and teacher, which has qualified him to teach the others around him. Throughout the rest of the Psalm, the speaker preaches about how leaving his sins has made him “righteous” and that people should “rejoice” and “shout for joy” for, if, and only if, they confess their sins, they are “upright in heart” (line 11). These words, along with how the speaker talks about how other people should “be ye not as the horse, or as the mule” (line 9) and follow without understanding about the world and be lead to danger, brings about the condescending

tone as the disciple acts like he's better because he's been taught. Though, overall the piece is urging the people to confess their sins to ask for God's forgiveness because "mercy shall compass him about" (line 10), and the guilt and sins of life shall not weigh one down to their doom.