

‘Town Mouse and Country Mouse’ Analysis

In this poem the poet does a fantastic job of comparing city life and country life. At the beginning of the poem we learn that the country mouse leads a very modest life in a “poor home.” When he welcomes his friend from the city he does his best to make the city mouse feel welcomed. Though he does not have much to offer his guest, he provides his friend with all the food he has and eats a small scrap for himself. “Raisins he brings and nibbled bacon-scrap, hoping...to entice his town-bread guest.” This gives us a view of country dwellers as very generous and modest beings. Horace shows us that the countryside is better because the people who live there are kind and while they may not have much to give, they do all they can to provide for others.

As the poem progresses, the two mice take a visit to the city. The city mouse is in awe of the highly decorated “couches of wrought ivory” and the mountains of leftover food “piled up high...a feast of yesterday.” Horace shows the great wealth within the city here. But then danger arrives when dogs enter the room looking for leftover scraps. This greatly frightens the country mouse because he is not used to being in danger. The country mouse now filled with fear exclaims that he misses his home in the country. “it may do for you...but I don’t like it...give me my hole, secure from all alarms.” Horace is clearly trying to show that while the city has much to offer like food and wealth, it also is full of risk and danger. Clearly, Horace is showing his preference to the countryside once again.