

Questions on The Second Coming by W.B. Yeats:

1. What is the significance of the falcon being unable to hear the falconer?
2. What does it mean that “the center cannot hold” (line 3)? What kinds of centers might Yeats be referring to?
3. To what or to whom might the poem be referring when it says, “The best lack all conviction, while the worst / Are full of passionate intensity” (7-8)?
4. What vision of the future does the poem seem to draw from what it calls the “Spiritus Mundi” (12)?