



A Walk at Dusk by Caspar David Friedrich

A man walks in the moonlight of an eerie scene of nature. It seems that he is surrounded by lifelessness. The trees have lost their leaves and the grass is a dull brown. This is a scene of death loneliness and contemplation. Off in the distance with a sense of inaccessibility there lie a row of trees full of life and a moon soaring over the background which doesn't seem to fully illuminate the area surrounding the man.

Caspar David Friedrich was born September 5, 1774 and began formal study of art in 1790. Friedrich was one of the frontrunners in the German Romantic period and was famous for his landscape works which sometimes were reflective of Christian themes. In *A Walk at Dusk*, the moon can be interpreted to be Christ soaring over the trees that are full of life promising to give him life as well. The painting portrays both the melancholy he experienced during this time and the consolation he found in the Christian faith. I often find myself in the same place. In life all I see is pain and suffering, but in the distance I see the life that Christ promises and as hard as it may seem to reach, I know it can be done.