

who?

vague evidence?

probably easing his mind as he prepares for death. Many have the picture of an old man struggling with his failing consciousness, by now, but the continuing strength of the nature of the speaker seems to be giving a will to go on. So Hardy is a live and vibrant figure wrestling with his vision of his life and trying to grab a better aspect for what he feels he has left. The tone of the nature of the speaker is wrought with reminiscences in the first two stanzas until he gets to a beautiful description of his boredom and futility and depression

And I warmed, until living aloofly loomed duller
Than life among men.

Here we see Hardy seeking discourse with the angels while living but not getting it until he moves down to the last stanza and is resolved in determination. Amiss of Petrarchan type love images that really sing Hardy is contemplating the beast that contains his spirit, wondering if his withering animal will slay that spirit. The second and third last stanzas attempt to describe the sort of bliss and harmony Hardy would like to evolve in his life.

Any determination in full of the nature of the speaker in limited definition is another problem a skilled rhetorician would beat his gums to death on, but as I have to see it any fuller commentary on what Hardy had to say in a higher plane is out of reach in terms of the nature of the speaker. More sensitive interpretations lie still in the hearts of other more insightful readers and I am sure their explanations would give better illumination, problems with critical terms notwithstanding.

