

ref? 3
 it is clear enough. Confessional in his own pity, he realizes he P
 has, although living, been out of touch with his own sought after
 higher reality, until he gives into it in line four of the third
 stanza. His emotions fall and ebb seriously throughout the main
 middle section of the poem as those of a man in doubt. He seems to
 be having voluntary visions seeking release or definition. His use
 of indefinite 'its', i.e. stanza four, line two is again possibly
 confirming that Hardy is having trouble with his poetic vision or
 creative ability being with him all the time. He is lost again in
 the last stanza and probably spiritually is close to the same state as xxx
 when he starts with his highly intransigent; ?

For life I had never cared greatly,
 as worth a man's while;

The poetic nature is obviously wrestling with a certain lack, *vague*
 and describing the differences in mental states the poet has been *meaningless*
 experiencing, again possibly Hardy having trouble with his
 creative energies, anyway it is highly possible that with his
 highly definite pilgrimage in the last stanza Hardy has made with
 himself some sort of a credo, an excelsior sort of attitude of the
 spirit that would truly allow him some taste of immortality, at
 least in his poetry. That the voice is trying to get a certain
 perfection into the rest of his life is undeniable, and his credo-
 like finish shows at least a strong determination on his part to
 fulfill the task he has so blatantly set for himself. This poem is
 like the whole plot of Steppenwolf, and we know the changes that
 poor fellow went through and here Hardy would be trying to do
 the same thing at the rather fragile age of 77? He couldn't have
 been worrying about what he thought he has missed in life but more