Law Like Love

According to W.H Auden in the poem, “Law Like Love,” law is very challenging to explain. He proves this by comparing the law to other things like the sun and elders and the poem becomes abstract and hard to understand. But at the end of the poem he compares the law to love and you get and understand what law is from his perspective.

Auden talks about the sun in the first stanza is saying, “Law, say the gardeners, is the sun. Law is one All gardeners obey Tomorrow, yesterday, today.” This stanza is telling me that law is something that is always there and it will never go away. I think it also states that law is something that you can’t never get rid of and without it, we can’t really live. Gardeners also need the sun’s rays in order to let their plants grow.

The fourth stanza sticks out to me a lot because it says, “Law, says the priest with a priestly look, expounding to an unpriestly people, Law is as I’ve told you before, Law is as you know I suppose, Law is but let me explain it once more, Law is the law.” This stanza makes me think that even a judge who is a very important person in the law, doesn’t really even know how to explain it. I think it’s hard for him to explain it because it’s a difficult topic.

The fifth stanza is another stanza that has me thinking. It says, “Yet law-abiding scholars write: Law is neither wrong nor right, Law is only crimes punished by places and by times, Law is the clothes men wear anytime, anywhere, Law is goodmorning and goodnight.” I think that when this stanza says ‘Law is neither wrong nor right’ it is talking about how law isn’t good and it’s not bad but it’s something that you can’t really explain.

Auden really explains how law is by saying it’s just like love because law is hard to explain. He uses a stanza to compare law to fate and that’s where the poem started to get confusing to me. W.H Auden says that law is like love and love because love is also very complicated to understand, and explain. In the last stanza Auden says, “Like love we don’t know where or why, like love we can’t compel or fly. Like love we seldom keep.”

This part of the stanza is telling me that how with love we really can’t explain why it happened or where, but you can’t really do anything about it because it’s love. You don’t really understand why the law exists or why there are rules but you can’t do anything about it. Law is something that you have to follow and without it, there’d be chaos.
W.H. really explains how law is by saying it’s just like love because law is hard to explain. Auden uses a stanza to compare law to fate and that’s where the poem started to get confusing for me.

In conclusion I can say that Auden wants to get across is that law is like love and both are very difficult to explain and understand. Law and love are like two synonyms because they almost mean the same thing, without either there would be pain and grief.