

Robert Frost (1874–1963). Mountain Interval. 1920.

## 1. The Road Not Taken

**Question for thought:** At a crossroad, traveling one path entails not traveling another. This condition forces the traveler to make a choice. While listening to this audio, identify the cost of traveling the road taken.

TWO roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth; 5

Then took the other, as just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim,  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;  
Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same, 10

And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back. 15

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference. 20

**Concluding question:** Faced with the same crossroads in life, why do people make different choices? Explain in terms of subjective costs and benefits.

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