Formalist Criticism

Throughout the song named, “Right Where It Belongs” by Trent Reznor, there are a few repeating rhythms, rhymes, cadences, and structure. One of them is the author repeatedly asks if life is an “elaborate dream”. The definition of elaborate is “involving many carefully arranged parts or details; detailed and complicated in design and planning.” (Oxford) This to me means that everything we know as being normal aren’t as normal and as easily obtainable that we might think. He continually proceeds this question by asking, “What if everything around you, Isn't quite as it seems?”. This is a question that makes you question everything you know and will ever know. What if “everything” isn’t as it seems? Well, I guess we have a lot to learn if that’s the case.

With how many questions this poem asks, I end with even more questions about life itself then before I read this story. They are real and intricate questions that I don’t necessarily have the answer to. When Reznor says, “What if all the world's inside of your head? Just creations of your own.”, this somewhat boggles my minds. We have no idea of knowing the answer to this. Which is why I was inclined to keep reading. The questions are quick and easy to process, but difficult top actually answer.

“What if you could look right through the cracks, Would you find yourself, find yourself afraid to see?” This is an interesting line because it makes us ask ourselves deep internal questions but keep the same cadence and rhythm as the rest of the lines that don’t quite do the same. This whole poem follows the same flow but has different pieces throughout each stanza. It makes you want to read ahead and see what the next polarizing question will be