The poem revolves around these historical facts. It tells a tale about how the common and poor Norwegians were impacted by these events. In the historical facts. The poem is believed to have been inspired by verbal accounts that Ibsen got during the time he lived in Grimstad in his youth. Verbal accounts about the hardships poverty to Norway. A poverty which caused people to start dying from starvation. The dire circumstances even compelled many impoverished Norwegians to row over to Denmark to get food, in order to save themselves and their families from starvation. Many of whom were captured and imprisoned. This forms well-known manifestations in arts and culture: literature, the visual arts, painting as well as photography, architecture and design, film, radio, and performing arts like music, theatre and dance. It is the first major historical work to consider the Nordic avant-garde in a transnational perspective which includes all the arts and to discuss the role of the avant-garde not. Henrik Ibsen's Terje Vigen has happened to his family while he was in prison. Later in the poem, Terje Vigen encounters the captain of the ship that took him captive, and Terje gets a chance to take revenge for the losses and grievances the imprisonment imposed on him. Though this poem is based on real life events, there exists no solid proof that a man named Terje Vigen ever existed who did all the things accounted for in the poem. The poem must therefore, even if it is based on knowledge of real-life events, be categorized as a fictional work of literature. But even if this work of literature remains a fictional one, it nonetheless provides an opportunity to imagine how life was for some of the people impacted by this event in history. And if we further keep in mind that life in Norway, for the majority of the population, throughout centuries has been a life of mere subsistence, we can let ourselves be persuaded that this poem not only provides an artistic rendition of the life and events of the possibly fictitious Terje Vigen and those taking place in the poem in particular, but paints a picture of life as it historically has been for many Norwegians in general.