

Poetry (Book III)

Complete Short Questions and Answers

For 1st year students



Estd 1864

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE &
LITERATURE**

FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

LAHORE

1. The Rain

(W.H. Davies)

Q.1: How can a rainy day be enjoyed?

Ans: A rainy day can be enjoyed by listening to the sound the rain creates. One can enjoy the rainy day by watching the scene of rainfall. Some people may go to parks with their families. While some may like to bathe in the rain.

Q.2: What would happen when the rain stops?

Ans: When the rain stops, the sun will shine brightly and a wonderful light will fill each dark round rain drop. It will be a beautiful scene.

Q.3: What does the poet hope at the end of the poem?

Ans: The poet hopes that after the rain stops, the sun will come out. Symbolically the sun stands for equality between the rich and the poor and prosperity among the people in future.

Q.4: What is the theme of the poem "The Rain"?

Ans: In this poem, the poet highlights the difference between the rich and poor. The poet portrays the falling of the rain on the rich leaves and the poor leaves. The top leaves receive rain directly means the rich get the golden chance first while whatever remains trickle down to the poor leaves representing the poor. But the poet hopes for a time when there will be equality among the people.

Q.5: What impression does the sound of the rain falling on the leaves give to the poet?

Ans: The poet hears the raindrops falling on the leaves. The poet feels as if the leaves are drinking rain water. It is a "sweet noise" to hear.

Q.6: Briefly explain the symbolic importance of the poem "The Rain"

Ans: "The Rain" is a symbolic poem in which upper leaves of trees represent the rich and the lower leaves represent the poor of the society. The sunshine symbolizes the day when the darkness of poverty will come to an end and there will be a fair distribution of the blessings of nature.

Q.7: How does the rain fall on poor leaves?

Ans: The rain falls on the poor leaves '**drop by drop**'. These leaves are called poor leaves because they receive rain in form of drops falling from the top ones.

2. Night Mail

(W.H. Auden)

Q.1: What does the Night Mail bring?

Ans: The night mail is a train that comes from across the border. It brings postal orders, cheques, and letters for the people from all the walks of life. It brings mail for everyone whether they are rich or poor or common people like a shop keeper or a girl next door.

Q.2: What is the reaction of birds on the arrival of Night Mail?

Ans: The birds turn their heads to see the coaches. They stare from bushes at her blank- faced coaches.

Q.3: What is the effect of Night Mail on life in the farms?

Ans: Night Mail does not disturb the life in the farm. The people in the farm are familiar to the sound of the Night Mail that is why they keep on sleeping. The only effect the night mail creates is that a jug in the bedroom gently shakes because of the vibration that the train creates.

Q.4: What is the reaction of sheep dogs on the arrival of Night Mail?

Ans: The sheep dogs do not bother to look at the train when she passes by as they know they cannot change its course. They just keep on sleeping with their paws across.

Q.5: From where does Night Mail pass?

Ans: She passes by plains and hills. She passes through the farms and cotton fields. She also passes from moorland and miles of fields of wind-bent grass.

Q.6: What is the theme of the poem "Night Mail"?

Ans: The theme is the beautiful journey of the night mail and how it delivers mail to the people. It brings different types of mail. It delivers letters to everyone whether rich or poor. Sometimes the journey is steep upward climb, sometimes it runs steadily on plains but it is always on time and follows the time schedule.

Q.7: Why does the poet call the coaches of the Night mail as “Blank Faced”?

Ans: The poet calls the coaches of night mail as “**blank faced**” because the train appears empty and expression less as it only carries mail and not passengers.

Q.8: What is the most significant quality of Night mail?

Ans: Punctuality is the most significant quality of the Night Mail.

3. Loveliest of Trees, the Cherry Now

(A.E. Housman)

Q.1: What is the theme of the poem 'Loveliest of trees the cherry now'?

Ans: The poem is about poet's love for nature, nostalgia for the past and pathos for man's short stay in this world which is portrayed by the admiration the poet expresses for the Cherry tree.

Q.2: Describe the beauty of the cherry tree as described in the poem.

Ans: The Cherry tree is covered with white flowers. It is full of bloom and its boughs are bending down with a load of flowers. It seems the cherry tree is wearing a white dress to celebrate Easter.

Q.3: What does the poet wish in the last stanza?

Ans: The poet wants to spend his remaining life enjoying the beauty of the cherry tree. He wishes to go to the woodland to see the cherry tree in bloom.

Q.4: Which fruit is mentioned in the poem?

Ans: The fruit 'Cherry' is mentioned in the poem.

Q.5: What time of the year is mentioned in the poem?

Ans: Easter time is mentioned in the poem and it is celebrated in spring season.

Q.6: What is the significance of Easter among Christians?

Ans: The Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter. The dawn of Easter Sunday conveys its message of new life that is important.

Q.7: How old is the poet and what does he mean by saying that twenty years will not come again?

Ans: The poet is twenty years old. Since, according to the Bible, an average man lives up to seventy years, the poet has now only fifty years more to enjoy the beauty of nature. He feels sad at the loss of his earlier life.

4. O Where are you going?

(W.H. Auden)

Q.1: What does the fearer tell the farer?

Ans: The fearer wants the farer to imagine the dangers ahead. The dusk might delay the traveler from reaching on time. The fearer further discourages the traveler by pointing out his unsteady footsteps. The fearer wants the farer to realize that his footsteps are moving from granite to grass.

Q.2: What are the qualities of the rider as described in this poem?

Ans: The rider is a brave and courageous person. He is optimistic and daring. He is a determined and challenge-taking person. He has the ability to overcome the hurdles in his way.

Q.3: What is the significance of the title of the poem?

Ans: The title of the poem 'O' where are you going' gives us a message that there are always such people who will scare you of the dangers in your way. They will try to discourage you and also try to create doubts in your mind.

Q.4: What does the reader tell the rider about the valley?

Ans: The negative force, reader, describes the fatal valley with furnaces. The reader also points out that the smell of the midden is capable of making a person insane. And the path in the valley is actually like a grave which made many brave people its victim.

Q.5: What does horror say to hearer?

Ans: The horror tries to scare the hearer in various ways. The hearer says that somewhere there is an ominous bird and there is also a shape among the twisted branches of the trees. Horror continues to intimidate the hearer that he is being followed by some figure quietly. And he has developed some kind of skin disease.

Q.6: What kind of feelings does the poet create in the minds of the reader?

Ans: He creates the feelings that if we want to reach our destination then we should be courageous and determined. We should face hardships and trials with patience. We can overcome the obstacles with determination.

Q.7: What is the theme of the poem?

Ans: The poem suggests that the way to glory and success is vague and full of dangers but it can be paved through courage, hard work and determination. Life is a journey and man is a traveller. He has to overcome different obstacles to reach his destination.

5. In the street of the Fruit stalls

(Jan Stallworthy)

Q.1: What are the feelings of the poet standing in the dark?

Ans: The poet is a man of insight and is aware of the horrible situation in which human beings live. The children in the poem are unaware of the misery, war and poverty around them. The very understanding about these things makes the poet a bit gloomy.

Q.2: Why has the poet used 'cannonballs' to describe the fruits?

Ans: The poem highlights the condition of war. Therefore, the poet is so horror-stricken that even the fruits piled up in a conical form appear to be bombs to him. Fruits glowing red-hot and gold-hot, like cannon balls point to the devastation of war in the surroundings.

Q.3: What do the children do with the fruit?

Ans: The children are full of life, and are least conscious of what is going around. They break the fruit and enjoy the taste of fruit. A gold or silver fountain wets their mouths, fingers, cheeks, noses and chins. The light of the lantern brightens their faces.

Q.4: How does the poet describe the fruits piled in the fruit stalls at night?

Ans: The fruits like melon, guava and mandarin are placed one upon another. The fruits are piled like a pyramid. They shine brightly in red and golden colours and look like cannonballs.

Q.5: What is the theme of the poem 'In the Street of the Fruit stalls'?

Ans: The world is threatened by war, poverty and misery. But all these have failed to crush man's love for pleasure. Children enjoy the sweet spray of the juice forgetting all the misery they live in.

Q.6: What is the significance of the repetition of the word “Dark” in the poem?

Ans: The poet is sad by the gloom and misery surrounding the world. The repetition of the word “**dark**” stresses on the distress, hopelessness and desolation in the world.

6. A Sindhi Woman

(Jan Stallworthy)

Q.1: What does the poet reflect when he sees the woman?

OR

Who stand most straight in “Sindhi Woman”? Why?

Ans: When the poet sees the woman walking through the bazaar gracefully, she reflects that only those people are strong and walk straight who bear the burden of life and yet retain their grace and steadiness.

Q.2: What kind of picture of Karachi slums do we get after reading the poem?

Ans: While reading the poem, we observe the poor and miserable condition of the dirty areas of Karachi. The narrow and unpaved streets of Karachi slums are filled with stones, garbage, excrement and pieces of glass.

Q.3: How does the Sindhi woman walk through the bazaar and what impresses the poet most in her movement?

Ans: The Sindhi woman walks barefoot beautifully in a wavy manner. She walks smoothly, balancing the stone jar on her head. The poet feels impressed by the barefoot movement, devotion, hard work and appearance of the Sindhi woman.

Q.4: How does the poet compare himself with the Sindhi woman and what conclusion does he

Ans: The poet compares his bent body with the erected body of the Sindhi woman. He concludes that those who work hard and walk straight while carrying a weight in the end become the strongest.

Q.5: What is the Sindhi woman carrying on her head and how does she succeed in keeping her balance?

Ans: The Sindhi woman is carrying a stone jar on her head. She keeps her balance because she is walking at a constant speed keeping her body erect. She succeeds because she doesn't look at the hurdles in her path.

Q.6: What are the significant qualities of the Sindhi woman?

Ans: The Sindhi woman is poor but she has great traits of character. She is confident and believes in the dignity of work. She is barefooted but walks steadily and gracefully even when stones and crumbs of glass are scattered around. She possesses patience, self-respect, grace and honor.

7. Times

(From Ecclesiastes,3, 1-12)

Q.1: Explain the message in the first eight lines of the poem “Times’ in your own words.

Ans: The poet says that Allah has created the universe with a sublime purpose and a scheme. There is a time for everything to happen. There is a time for every season. There is a time to come in this world and there is a time to depart. Likewise, there is a time for sowing the seed and for reaping the harvest.

Q.2: What is the role of time in human life?

Ans: Time plays an important role in human life. There is a time for every human being to be born and a time to die. The schedule of life and death does not change even for a moment.

Q.3: How important is the time for a gardener and a farmer?

Ans: The gardener and the farmer need to be very punctual. They must sow the seeds on time, and they must pluck the flowers and reap the harvest on time.

Q.4: What is the significance of time for a builder?

Ans: Sometimes the builder has to demolish an old building to the ground because it is not safe enough. Another time he builds it again.

Q.5: What is the significance of time in human relations?

Ans: Time plays a significant role in human relations. Sometimes the two persons are bosom friends, and another time they become bitter enemies. Time can influence the attitude.

Q.6: What do you understand by the lines: “A time to keep silence, and a time to speak”?

Ans: These lines underline the importance of our actions. Both silence and speech have their own value but the point is we should be able to realize that what a proper time for speech and silence is.

8. Ozymandias

(Percy Bysshe Shelley)

Q.1: Who was Ozymandias?

Ans: Ozymandias was an ancient Egyptian king. He was a very arrogant and cruel king. He committed great atrocities because of his pride and arrogance.

Q.2: What was the condition of statue standing in the desert?

Ans: The statue was broken. It was a trunkless statue. It was decayed and ruined under the crushing pressure of time. Its head was lying half-buried in the sand.

Q.3: What did the features of the statue reflect?

Ans: The features of the statue reflected the arrogance and cruelty of the king. They showed that the king had committed many great acts of cruelty just to satisfy his feelings of pride.

Q.4: What was written on the pedestal of the statue?

Ans: It was written there: 'My name is Ozymandias, king of kings: Look on my works, Ye Mighty and despair.'

Q.5: What is the theme of the poem Ozymandias?

Ans: The theme of the poem is the mortality of humans. No man can be immortal. One day everything vanishes under the pressure of time. Even the memorials do not live long. Cruelty comes to an end.

Q.6: Give a short character sketch of Ozymandias.

Ans: Ozymandias was a powerful, cruel and merciless Egyptian king. His face had a frown, his lips were wrinkled lips with a sneer of cold command. Even the expression on his face conveyed arrogance.

Q7: What moral lesson do we learn from the poem 'Ozymandias'?

Ans: The moral lesson we learn from the poem is that worldly power and glory are short-lived. Our feelings of pride and arrogance are merely self-deception. So, we should never become proud and arrogant.

Q.8: What kind of feelings does the poem create in the reader's mind?

Ans: Shelley points to the bitter reality of time. An individual does pass away, and with him all signs of his existence and superiority disappear. There remains nothing behind but sand which stands for wastefulness and total destruction. Arrogance and pride come to an end.

Q.9: What did the traveler see in the desert?

Ans: The traveler saw the ruined statue of Ozymandias in the desert. He saw two vast trunkless legs standing in the desert. The head of the statue was lying half sunk in the sand and it looked shattered.

9. The Feed

(Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi)

Q.1: What does a sparrow hold in her beak?

Ans: A sparrow holds a grain of millet in her beak.

Q.2: Which line in the first stanza tells us that the young ones have no feathers?

Ans: The following line tells us so:

“From head to toe they are beaks”.

Q.3: How many young ones are to be fed?

Ans: There are ten young ones to be fed by the mother sparrow.

Q.4: What is the condition of the young ones?

Ans: The young ones are very small and hungry. They are so small that they do not have a bird-like appearance. They do not have feathers. They always keep crying for food.

Q.5: How does the mother sparrow feed her young ones?

Ans: The mother sparrow is holding a grain of millet and is in confusion to whom she should solace because the young ones are ten in number

Q.6: Whom do the young sparrows represent?

Ans: The young sparrows represent the hunger-stricken population of the world.

Q.7: What is the dilemma of the mother sparrow?

Ans: The dilemma of the mother sparrow is that her young ones are ten in number but she has only one grain of millet to feed them. The mother sparrow is unable to decide which of her young ones she should solace.

Q.8: What do you feel after reading the poem 'The Feed'?

Ans: The poet compares human ability to that of a bird. Mother sparrows have nature's technology of crushing tiny particles of food to initiate life, but humans have acquired the technology of destroying atoms and causing suffering to mankind. Humans must learn to give life rather than steal it.

10. The Hollow Men

(T.S. Eliot)

Q.1: Why does the poet call us hollow men?

Or

Who have been called hollow men?

Ans: The term 'hollow' means being empty from within. The poet calls the modern men as the hollow men because we are inwardly empty, soulless, faithless and characterless. We do not have the noble ideas and we also lack moral and spiritual qualities.

Q.2: What does the term “stuffed men” mean in the poem?

Ans: The stuffed men are the men whose minds are hollow and they lack the ability to reason.

Q.3: What is the shape of hollow men?

Ans: Hollow men have no forms. They are deformed. They lack good human qualities. Their shapes are without any beauty.

Q.4: What does the phrase “leaning together” mean?

Ans: “Leaning Together” means that the hollow men have no strength of their own. They lean against one another for mutual support.

Q.5: How do the whispers of the hollow men sound?

Ans: The whispers of hollow men are quiet and meaningless. They sound like the wind through the dry grass or like the creeping sounds of rats over the pieces of glass.

Q.6: What is the theme of “The Hollow Men”?

Ans: T.S. Eliot says modern men have deprived themselves of the entire heritage that once marked the glory of their ancestors. They are just stuffed men and leading a meaningless life. Their souls are restless as well. They are, therefore, spiritually dead and intellectually paralyzed.

11. Leisure

(William Henry Davies)

Q.1: How does the poet compare modern man with animals?

Ans: The poet says that the cows and the sheep are better than human beings. They spend more time with the green leaves and trees. But man is so busy that he cannot stand so long as sheep or cows do to enjoy the beauties of nature.

Q.2: When does the life of a man become poor?

Ans: Man has made his life poor by so much involvement in the worldly gains that he has no time to enjoy the beauty of nature.

Q.3: What makes our life full of care?

Ans: It is the worldly pursuits and the superficial gains that take away all our time, and we live a poor and dull life. The poet regrets that the mechanical haste of the modern age has deprived us of simple, innocent pleasures of life.

Q.4: What lesson does the poet want to convey in the poem, “Leisure”?

Ans: He wants us to pay heed to the natural beauty spreading around us. He says that the life which is full of care is a poor life. Modern man runs after the worldly things and loses the opportunity to enjoy the nature.

Q.5: How do we react to Beauty’s glance?

Ans: In this poem, beauty is personified as a young pretty girl who looks at us with loving and smiling eyes, but we are so busy in worldly pursuits that we do not have time to respond to her loving glance.

Q.6: What is the central idea or theme of the poem?

Ans: Nature stands for purification and enrichment of our souls. But our mechanical routine and modern lifestyle have made our life poor by spoiling our peace of mind and depriving us of aesthetic pleasures.

12. Ruba'iyat

(Allama Muhammad Iqbal)

Q.1: Who was Abraham?

Ans: Abraham was the prophet of Allah who was thrown into fire by his opponents, but he was saved by his faith in God.

Q.2: What is faith according to Allama Iqbal?

Ans: Faith is total submission to Allah's will and according to Allama Iqbal, true faith is like the faith of Abraham who jumped into fire, and he was saved by his strong faith in God.

Q.3: What is worse than slavery?

Ans: According to Allama Iqbal to have no faith is worse than slavery.

Q.4: Who cannot compete with the culture of civilization of Makkah?

Ans: Europe cannot compete with the civilization of Makkah as Europe (West) is devoid of faith in God. The westerns have no such binding force as Makkah which unites the Muslims and makes them a nation.

Q.5: What has made the efforts of Muslim fruitless?

Ans: Modern age has captivated the Muslims and made them materialistic and dependent on the Europeans who are faithless and spiritually dead. The prayers of the Muslims are, therefore, cold, and their efforts fruitless.

Q.6: What is the present condition of the Muslims as given in the last stanza of the poem?

Ans: The present condition of the Muslims is lamentable. They have become slaves to materialistic gains. The Muslims have no unity, no peace of mind and no spirit in their prayers as they do not have true faith in God. The poet says that the Muslims of the present age are devoid of love's madness.

Q.7: The blood runs thin in the Muslims' veins, what does it mean?

Ans: It means that the Muslims are not firm in their belief. They do not love God fully. They do not follow God's orders. It also means that Muslims have become selfish and they lack brotherhood.

Q.8: What is the moral lesson of the poem?

Ans: The moral lesson is that true faith in God gives us courage, self-honour, and a passion for sacrifice. The Muslims should have firm faith in God. Faith in God frees us from the shackles of race, colour, creed, and caste. It knits all human beings into universal brotherhood.

Q.9: Why are our ranks broken, hearts perplexed, and prayers cold?

Ans: The Muslims have no unity, no peace of mind and no spirit in their prayers as they do not have true faith in God. The poet says that the Muslims of the present age are devoid of love's madness that is why their hearts are perplexed, ranks broken and their prayers cold.

13. A Tale of Two Cities

(John Peter)

Q.1: Why do the people in the poem look powerless and helpless?

Ans: The Atom bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Thousands of men died in no time and those who survived became powerless and helpless because of mass destruction brought by the atom bombs. They were wounded, burnt and frightened to death.

Q.2: Under what circumstances had the victims to pass through?

Ans: Everything was destroyed. All the beautiful things and the eatables were smashed. The people were in terrible condition. It was just like passing through a heavy grind. They could do nothing but weep and wail. They were powerless and helpless.

Q.3: Describe the scene of devastation.

Ans: The people of the two cities of Japan passed through great pain, suffering, and terrible death when a nation in its wild passion dropped atom bombs on them. The victims were scarred and burnt, and there was no one to share their moans or to lessen their groans.

Q.4: Who shares the moans and lessened the groans of the people of the two cities?

Ans: No one shares their moans and lessened their groans.

Q.5: Were the victims completely destroyed or did they rise again?

Ans: The innocent people of Japan were scarred, burnt, and reduced to ashes in the Second World War, but their faith and spirit could not be destroyed. They did not lose hope and rose again to the heights of glory.

Q.6: What is the moral lesson of the poem?

Ans: The moral lesson of the poem is that war is a heinous crime against humanity. It's the violation of human rights. War mongers should be condemned and punished. It also gives us a lesson that we

do not lose anything if we do not lose our hope and will power. We learn from the poem that those are the great people who bear pain but do not lose heart, and rise again to the heights of glory.

14. My Neighbor Friend Breathing His Last!

(Bullah Shah)

Q.1: When does a person remember God?

Ans: When a person is helpless, alone and in pain or trouble, he remembers God because he finds no helper but God.

Q.2: What is the effect of the death scene?

Ans: The death scene makes the whole surrounding mournful and woeful. The poet says that his friend has died, and on every-side there is a talk of departure. The death scene burns a flame of grief in the poet's heart.

Q.3: Why does a person feel helpless on the death of a friend?

Ans: Death is a bitter reality. This is the final end of life. When a person sees a dear one dying, he feels sad and helpless. He can neither die with him nor prevent the death of his friend.

Q.4: What does flare up flames in the heart to height?

Ans: The poet's friend is dead. The poet is very sad. His separation from his friend flares up flames in his heart.

Q.5: Without whose love Bullah is in loss?

Ans: Without Allah's love Bullah is in loss.

Q.6: What conclusion does the poet arrive at as expressed in the last three lines of the poem?

Ans: The poet concludes that one cannot live in this world without the love and mercy of God nor can he do well in the life here after without having God's mercy, love and grace.

15. He Came to Know Himself

(Sachal Sarmast)

Q.1: Why does the poet emphasize on knowing one 'self'?

Ans: The poet emphasizes on knowing oneself because the 'self' of a person is a mirror to see Allah. One cannot reach Allah without recognizing his 'self'.

Q.2: What makes a person entangled in love?

Ans: When a person recognizes himself, he starts seeing unlimited treasures of God's blessings. This feeling makes him entangled in love.

Q.3: Why did Mansoor mount the gallows?

Ans: Mansoor was blessed with love of God. He was so much enmeshed in God's love that in his heart there was nothing but God. This world became meaningless for him therefore, he mounted the gallows for God's love.

Q.4: What is the bare Truth?

Ans: The bare truth is that man's stay on this Earth is temporary.

Q.5: What does the poet say about his sojourn on the earth?

Ans: 'Sojourn' means brief or short stay. The poet has understood that life in this world is very short. This short life should be lived well in preparation for the everlasting life of heaven.

16. God's Attributes

(Jalaluddin Rumi)

Q.1: How many attributes of God are mentioned in the poem?

Ans: Three attributes of God are mentioned in the poem. They are “All Knowing”, “All Seeing” and “All Hearing.”

Q.2: What makes one afraid of sinning?

Ans: God is “All Seeing” makes one afraid of sinning. People know that God is seeing them all the time so they try not to commit sins or evil deeds.

Q.3: What are the effects of God's attributes?

Or

How do the attributes help in refining the character of a person?

Ans: The attributes of God make a person's character exemplary. A person tries to keep himself away from sinning, doing foul discourse and plotting an evil because he knows that God is All Knowing, All Seeing and All Hearing.

Q.4: God calls Himself “Hearing”. How does this attribute help one in daily speech?

Ans: When a person realizes that God is “All Hearing”, he closes his lips against foul discourse.

Q.5: Mention three more attributes of God and Explain.

Ans: The Forgiver as He forgives everyone's sins. **The Protector** as He protects us from dangers of evil. **The Provider** as He provides us.

Q.6: What is the central idea of the poem ‘God’s Attributes’?

Ans: The attributes of Allah help us to refine our character and live a good life. The attributes of Allah keep us from living an immoral life. They are meant to guide us and help us to distinguish between right and wrong. A person tries to keep himself away from sinning, doing foul discourse and plotting an evil because he knows that God is All Knowing, All Seeing and All Hearing.

17. The Delight Song

(N. Scott Momaday)

Q.1: What do you understand when the poet says “I am the shadow that follows a child”?

Ans: The poet is much impressed by the innocence of the child. A child symbolizes carefree and happy life. So, the poet also wants to enjoy life like the child.

Q.2: How can the crust of snow glitter?

Ans: The crust of snow glitters when rays of the sun fall on it.

Q.3: What is the result of man’s good relation with the earth and the lords?

Ans: If a man is in good relation with the earth and the lords, he remains in contact with happy and beautiful things. Therefore, he is able to spend happy and enjoyable life on Earth.

Q.4: What is the dream of the poet?

Ans: The poet wishes to be in a happy relationship with all that is on the earth and the people who live here. He wishes to enjoy all the natural phenomena i.e. activities of the fish, birds, animals and all other beautiful creatures.

Q.5: What are the things that keep a person alive?

Ans: What keeps a person alive is harmony with all that comforts, soothes and inspires. He lives a happy life when he has a good relationship with the earth he lives in and the beautiful things that make him happy. A good relationship with the earth, its masters, and its beauty and fruitfulness keep him alive and happy.

Q.6: “I am a blue horse running in the plains.” What does this line suggest?

Ans: Blue color stands for purity. Horse is symbol of power. The poet feels pure and strong like a blue horse. The poet feels carefree like a blue horse that runs in plain. He has good relation with animals around him.

18. Love- an Essence of All Religions

(Jalaluddin Rumi)

Q.1: Why does the poet put emphasis on Love?

Or

What is the effect of Love?

Ans: The poet emphasizes on love because love is an essence of all religions. Love can change an evil person into a pious man. It can make this world a better place to live in.

Q.2: What is the significance of vinegar becoming sweet wine?

Ans: Love has a purifying effect. Vinegar is the raw stuff. Through processing, it becomes wine. Likewise love turns negative feelings and base passion into positive ones.

Q.3: What is the significance of stake becoming a throne?

Ans: Love makes people brave. Inspired with sublime mission, the faithful fight against heavy odds and become victorious. Thus, the stake becomes a throne.

Q.4: What is the significance of burning fire becoming pleasing light?

Ans: The poet seems to allude to Hazrat Ibrahim's faith in and love for God. Hazrat Ibrahim (A.S) jumped into fire but his love for his Creator transformed the burning fire into a pleasing light.

Q.5: What is the significance of stone becoming soft?

Ans: Love has a softening effect. It can soften stone-hearted people and make them gentle and caring.

Q.6: What is the significance of lions becoming harmless?

Ans: Love has a taming effect. It can tame the lions, the brave ones, and make them behave in a positive way.

Q.7: Is life worth living without love?

Ans: Without love life is dry and boring. Base passions such as jealousy and hate make life miserable. Love brings harmony and joy in life.

Q.8: What is the significance of thorns becoming roses?

Ans: Love is a great force of life. Thorns are symbol of pain and roses are symbol of delight. In a miraculous way love can change pain into delight. For instance, it is painful to remember a departed friend; still we love to remember him.

19. A Man of words and Not of Deeds

(Charles Perrault 1628-1703)

Q.1: How does the life of a man of words pass through different phases?

Ans: The poet says that a man of words spends an inactive life and remains unable to use his abilities in the right direction. So, with the passage of time, inactivity ruins his life completely.

Q.2: What happens when the life is not of deed but is full of words?

Ans: The life full of words and not of deeds always leads to ultimate destruction.

Q.3: What is the condition of the garden when the weeds start growing?

Ans: The garden becomes useless when the weeds start growing in it because one cannot expect fruits from weeds.

Q.4: What does the flying of the bird and the eagle signify (mean)?

Ans: The flying of the bird shows escaping away from the troubles a talkative man creates for himself. Such a man has many opponents and enemies which he has made through his foul discourse. He flies from them like a bird or an eagle.

Q.5: What does a man of words do when the door begins to crack?

Ans: A talkative person is a cowardly fellow in a lion's skin. When he is exposed in front of the people, he does not face them straight. He hits people in the back through his foul discourse.

Q.6: Describe the typical traits of a talkative person.

Ans: A talkative person is the one who does not do much work. A talkative person is fond of criticizing other people. With the passage of time talking becomes an addiction. In order to satisfy himself, he needs to talk more and more. People feel uncomfortable in the company of a talkative person. As soon as they find some opportunity, they leave his company. A talkative person is a cowardly fellow in a lion's skin.

Q.7: What is the moral of the poem?

Ans: The moral of the poem is that actions speak louder than words.

Q.8: Why does the poet compare a talkative person with a garden full of Weeds?

Ans: The poet believes that a talkative person is simply useless. His idle talk does not help his family, his friends or even his own self. Therefore, the poet compares him with a garden full of weeds.

Q.9: Why does the poet compare a talkative person with a garden full of Snow?

Ans: A talkative person wastes his precious time. His friends are also upset. Like heavy snowfall in a garden, he creates a messy situation for himself.

20. In Broken Images

(Robert Graves)

Q.1: What is the condition of the two persons, one who trusts clear images and the other who mistrusts broken images?

Ans: The person who trusts the clear images assumes fact because he trusts them. But he gets confused when the facts fail him. The second person who mistrusts his broken images always questions their relevance and finds the reality because he understands his problems clearly.

Q.2: Why does a person question his senses when the facts fail him?

Ans: The person who trusts clear images or ideas finds society or life to be very different from his thinking. Life is not regular or systematic. So, when he finds facts of life different from his ideas, he begins blaming his feelings and understanding.

Q.3: Who is in a new confusion of his understanding?

Ans: The person trusting his clear images or regular thoughts about life is in a new confusion. He is in confusion when he finds his ideas opposite to the realities or facts of life.

Q.4: What is the moral of the poem?

Ans: The lesson is that we should be ready to change our ideas about life and society as the poet does. It is better to have irregular sets of ideas that are changeable. Our thinking should be flexible. Nothing should be taken as granted.