

Unit 13

Ruba'iyat (Poem)

Synonyms

Stanza 1

faith: belief, trust, confidence, conviction, devotion

stake: danger, risk, peril, hazard, suffering

self-honouring: self-respecting, dignified, honourable, noble, proud

God-drunk: devoted to Allah, spiritually absorbed, deeply faithful, pious, God-loving

hear: listen, heed, attend, pay attention, perceive

age: era, period, epoch, generation, time

captivate: attract, fascinate, charm, enchant, engage

slavery: bondage, captivity, servitude, subjugation, oppression

Stanza 2

strange: foreign, unfamiliar, unusual, unknown, alien

lands: countries, regions, territories, nations, places

fire (Islam's fire): passion, zeal, spirit, enthusiasm, fervour

blends: mixes, combines, merges, unites, integrates

nation: people, community, society, population, citizens

harmony: unity, agreement, accord, cooperation, peace

depends: relies, rests, hinges, counts, trusts

concord: unity, harmony, agreement, peace, understanding

soul: spirit, essence, inner self, heart, being

Europe: the West, Western world, European society

civilization: culture, society, advancement, development, refinement

bends: submits, obeys, follows, yields, conforms

Stanza 3

madness (Love's madness): passion, devotion, deep love, enthusiasm, fervour

departed: left, gone, vanished, disappeared, withdrawn

veins: blood vessels, arteries, channels, lifelines, inner strength

thin: weak, feeble, reduced, diminished, fragile
ranks: lines, groups, rows, formations, divisions
broken: shattered, divided, disrupted, fragmented, damaged
hearts: minds, feelings, emotions, inner selves, spirits
perplexed: confused, disturbed, puzzled, bewildered, troubled
prayers: worship, supplications, devotions, invocations, petitions
cold: lifeless, emotionless, spiritless, indifferent, uninspired
feeling: emotion, sentiment, sensitivity, awareness, perception
deeper: profound, intense, meaningful, significant, substantial
skin: surface, outer layer, covering, exterior, shell

Question Answers

1. What do you know about faith?

Ans. Faith means believing in something with complete trust even without physical proof. In religious context, it refers to belief in Allah, His guidance and His power. Faith gives a person hope, patience and strength in difficult situations.

2. What is a civilization? Do you know the difference between Islamic and European civilization?

Ans. A civilization is a developed form of human society that includes culture, education, laws, traditions and social systems. Islamic civilization is generally based on religious values, moral principles and unity of believers. European civilization is mainly associated with scientific progress, technological development and modern social systems. Both have contributed differently to human development.

3. What does comparing faith to Hazrat Abraham (A.S.) at the stake show about true faith?

Ans. Comparing faith to Hazrat Abraham (A.S.) at the stake shows that true faith means complete trust in Allah even in times of great danger. It is strong, fearless and unshaken no matter how difficult the test may be.

4. What do you think the phrase “Islam’s fire blends” means?

Ans. The phrase “Islam’s fire blends” refers to the passion, strength and spirit of Islam that unite people across different lands and cultures. It suggests that Islamic values promote harmony, unity and a shared sense of purpose.

5. What happens when Muslims lose “Love’s madness”?

Ans. When Muslims lose “Love’s madness” they lose their deep love and devotion to Allah and Islam. Their faith becomes weak, their unity breaks and they lose their spiritual strength and sense of purpose.

6. What does Allama Iqbal mean by describing faith as being “God-drunk”?

Ans. The term “God-drunk” is an oxymoron that combines two contrasting ideas. “Drunk” refers to a state of complete absorption where a person forgets everything around him. Allama Iqbal uses this expression to show that true faith means complete immersion in Allah and total surrender of one’s ego. A faithful person submits entirely to the authority and will of Allah with absolute devotion.

7. Why does the poet claim that having no faith is “worse than slavery”?

Ans. According to Allama Iqbal, faith gives self-honour, dignity and inner strength. A faithful person does not fear worldly powers because he trusts Allah’s omnipotence. In contrast, a slave loses individuality, dignity and self-respect as he is forced to obey others. A person without faith is spiritually enslaved and his condition is worse than physical slavery.

8. How does the poet contrast “music of strange lands” with “Islam’s fire”?

Ans. The phrase “music of strange lands” refers to foreign ideologies, philosophies and cultural influences outside the Islamic world. “Islam’s fire” symbolizes the spiritual strength, core values and unifying power of Islam. The poet contrasts both to show that Islam acts as a purifying force that unites different cultures while foreign influences often create confusion and division.

9. What phrases show Allama Iqbal’s view of European civilization as spiritually empty?

Ans. The phrases “empty of concord”, “the soul of Europe” and “whose civilization to no Makkah bends” reflect Iqbal’s criticism of Western civilization. He suggests that it lacks a unifying spiritual force like Makkah which serves as the center of guidance for Muslims. He warns that Western civilization is based on materialism rather than spiritual values.

Q5. How does the poet portray the spiritual condition of contemporary Muslims?

Ans. Allama Iqbal presents the Muslims of his time as spiritually weak and declining. They have lost true faith, self-respect and unity. They are influenced by materialistic values and have forgotten the spirit of Islam. As a result, they lack brotherhood, purpose and inner strength which has led to their decline.

Q6. Identify and explain two metaphors used to describe Muslim decline.

Ans. Iqbal uses the metaphor “in the Muslim’s veins the blood runs thin” to show loss of passion, strength and spiritual energy. The metaphor “ranks broken” represents disunity among Muslims. The phrase “prayers cold” reflects worship without sincerity or spiritual warmth. Together these metaphors highlight spiritual decline.

Q7. How does “Love’s madness” relate to Khudi?

Ans. “Love’s madness” represents intense love for Allah which serves as a driving force for Khudi. According to Iqbal, divine love strengthens selfhood by giving courage, purpose and spiritual awakening. It leads a person toward self-realization and inner development which strengthens personality and faith.

Q8. Do you agree with Iqbal’s diagnosis of modern spiritual problems? Why?

Ans. One can agree with Iqbal’s diagnosis because he correctly identifies that modern Muslims have been influenced by materialism and narrow nationalism. This has weakened spiritual values and unity. He emphasizes the need to revive faith, love for Allah and unity among Muslims to restore strength and identity.
