

# Summaries of Poems

(1)

## The Rain

by W.H. Davies

The poet hears the noise of the rain on leaves of trees. The leaves on top are fully drenched with water, and water falls drop after drop creating a musical sound. But this water creates disturbance for the poor taking shelter under the tree. They have to suffer wet cold weather.

When the Sun appears after the rain, the streamers of its light brighten the rain drops and lend them different colours. The poet is hopeful to see everyone enjoying the lovely sunshine after the stopping of the rain.

(2)

## Night Mail

by W.H.Auden

The poet describes the journey of a railway coach that travels the whole night to convey the mail. It brings letters, postal orders and cheques for the rich and the poor, male and female.

Sometimes its way is steep upward and sometimes it travels through plain fields. Whatever the railway track is steep or descent it reaches on time.

Producing clouds of smoke and thundering noise, it passes by different types of landscape, grassland, cotton fields and plains.

The birds stare at its blank carriages from their nests when it passes by them but the sheep dogs continue their sleep without bothering about it.

When it passes by a farmhouse, no one wakes because of its noise only the utensils shake.

## (3) LOVELIEST OF TREES, THE CHERRY NOW

By A.E. Housman

Cherry, the loveliest of the trees is now in full bloom and its branches, laden with flowers, are bending down. It is along with the path in the wood and covered in snow all over. It looks as if it were dressed white for celebrating Easter.

Out of the seventy years of the poet's life, the first twenty years will not come again. The rest of his life of fifty years he claims to have enjoyed the beauty of cherry blossom in fifty springs.

This time of just fifty years is not sufficient to enjoy the beauty of nature. So, the poet decides to miss no chance to go to the woodland to see the exotic beauty of the cherry tree covered with snow all over.

## (4) O WHERE ARE YOU GOING

by Anonymous

The Reader asked the Rider about his destination. He threatens him that the valley is full of fatal dangers and there are heaps of rubbish giving out bad smell. The whole valley is like a grave.

He further threatens that the path chosen by the Rider is very hard, tortuous and slow. There are hard stones and various hurdles.

The Reader also mentions the supernatural horrible creatures to discourage the Rider. He says that invisible forces will attack you from behind. And you will suffer strange painful diseases.

The Rider answers courageously that glory and success always wait for the courageous one and can not be achieved without endurance, determination and steadfastness.

## (5) IN THE STREETS OF FRUIT STALLS

by Jan Stalworthy

It is evening time and the atmosphere is wet and dark. In the street of fruit stalls different fruits are piled up in a conical form. The fruit glow in the light of the lantern red and gold like bombs.

Poor children come there holding their coins in their hands. They look at the fruit and their mouths become full of water.

They pick up a fruit and break it open. Juice comes out and pours into their mouths and also sticks to their fingers and cheeks. They become so absorbed in the enjoyment that they forget the horrible surroundings which are a constant cause of the Poet's anxiety.

## (6) SINDHI WOMEN

by Jan Stalworthy

A Sindhi woman is going through the bazaar bare footed. She is walking with a beautiful gait and a peculiar rhythm is felt in her graceful movement. Her body swings harmonically and her dress flutters beautifully. She is carrying a stone jar on her head. She walks as smoothly as the wave of a stream. Though her path is littered with stones, garbage, pieces of bread and broken glass, yet she is walking unbent and straight. This is the scene of a Karachi slum. The poet looks at his own bent body and understands that only those who bear the burden of life and go through the hardships of life remain straight and strong.

## (7) TIMES

by Ecclesiastes

Everything is bound to its season. And everything under the sky has its peculiar time. There is a proper time for birth and death. For planting a tree there is proper time and for harvesting again time is very much important. Time is again important to decide when to demolish and when to build. For merry making and for feeling grieved there is proper time. Time has also a role to throw the stones or gather them. Proper time is also allocated for love and hate. It is necessary to follow the time schedule for getting or losing something, keeping something or casting it away, sewing some thing or rending any thing. Time also plays very important role to decide the time of silence or the time of speaking.

## (8) OZYMANDIAS

by P.B.Shelley

The poet meets a traveler from an olden country. The traveler tells him that he saw two huge, trunk less legs made of stone in the desert. Near these legs there he also saw the broken body of a man half sunk in the sand. The features of the dead face tell that he was very proud and contemptuous of others. The sculptor has artistically recreated these impressions in the face of stone. One could feel that he must be proud and heartless in his life. At the bottom of the column it was inscribed,

“ My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings: Look on my  
works, ye mighty and despair!”

There remained nothing in the desert except the broken statue.

## (9) THE FEED

by Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi

The mother sparrow has come to feed the young ones holding a grain of cereal. The young ones are tiny and small. When they cry it seems as if there were only beaks from head to toe. There is only one grain to feed the ten.

Now it is a question to select the recipient of the feed from the ten as to whom she should provide solace. She also realizes that her young ones now have become a little big and they have learnt to weep and complain. So she tries to break and split the grain. She also seems satisfied to see her young ones have learnt to lead life and now she is ready to put the burden of life on their own shoulders.

**(10)**

## **THE HOLLOW MEN**

by T.S.Eliot

We are worthless men. We are stuffed like statues. We try to rest upon each other. But there is no wisdom in our minds. Alas! We can convey nothing though we speak a lot. Our words are as meaningless as the sounds made by dry grass or sounds of rats in a cellar bin.

Our appearance is mere appearance as any shadow without colour. Our gestures are like paralyzed without any warmth or emotion. We seem strong but infact we are too weak to be called alive.

The people who have passed away consider us without bothering about our frustration, only as hollow walking souls. We are nothing but stuffed statues.

**(11)**

## **LEISURE**

by W.H.Davies

The poet asks the meaning of this busy and bore life if there is no time for us to enjoy the beauty spread all around. We have no time to stand under the trees and enjoy their restful shade. We have less time than cattle to look around.

We are so preoccupied that we cannot enjoy the beautiful scene of streams that twinkle like starry night in the sunshine.

We cannot turn our eyes to the natural beauty spread all around us dancing and smiling. Her smile can be a source of solace for us but we are sick hurried and are deprived of all these blessings.

In the light of all our busy and materialistic approach to life, our life is a poor life despite having all the modern facilities.

**(12)**

## **RUBA'IYAT**

by Allama Muhammad Iqbal

Strong faith like Hazrat Abraham is required these days. The faith means having self-honour and full trust in God. Modern age is the age of fascination. This fascination has captivated the Muslims. Try to understand that having no faith is worse than slavery.

Modern music mania has mutilated the faith of the Muslims. The harmony of a nation depends on strong faith, while European civilization is devoid of spiritual faith. They have no proper spiritual destination.

The Muslims have lost their religious fanaticism. Their blood has lost warmth of faith and runs cold in their veins. Their ranks are not uniform, their hearts are confused and their prayers are ineffective. They have only apparent ideas and feelings.

**(13)**

## **A TALE OF TWO CITIES**

by Anonymous

All the people whether rich or poor were afraid injured and scarred because of a lot of hue and cry, thundering sounds of weapons and army parade.

The hills and the buildings were destroyed and there remained no one to help and console the injured.

There was total destruction and nothing was left. The rich culture and the beautiful landscapes were destroyed. Everything bore the brunt of lethal weapons.

In the moments of fury all the population of two cities was wiped off by atomic explosion. All the glory of their civilization departed with the destruction.

All this destruction was caused by a mad and cruel nation that did not care for the human rights and also did not bother about the fatal results of war on humanity only to fulfill their material pursuits.

But the people of these cities are very much brave and courageous as they did not lose heart and suffered the pains patiently. They have risen again in the comity of nations by dint of their will power and bravery. They created a great enthusiasm out of ashes of their lost glory.

## (14) **MY NEIGHBOUR FRIEND BREATHING HIS LAST**

by Bullah Shah (Translated by A.R.Luther)

The poet got frightened on seeing the last moments of his neighbour friend. He left behind all the friends and relative weeping and mourning but no one could help him.

Death became the talk of the town. Its bitterness makes the people mournful but is unavoidable. Nothing can be done in this regard

Death affect the feelings bitterly and its sight muffles all the worldly pleasures. Man feels himself helpless.

Without the love of God everyone is in loss and cannot get any permanent profit. The only profitable thing is the love of God.

## (15) **HE CAME TO KNOW HIMSELF**

by Sachal Sarmast

One who comes to know his own value, as a wonderful creation of Allah Almighty cannot have a view of anything else except Him. Allah has granted mankind the passion of love from heaven in the form of waterfall. In His love Mansur mounted the gallows to get his head cut off. For the love of his beloved, Allah Almighty Yousaf (A.S) went through the bazaars of Egypt to be sold. The poet declares the straightforward truth that a person's stay on earth is temporary.

## (16) **GOD'S ATTRIBUTES**

by Jalauddin Rumi (Translated by Dr. Nicholson)

Allah Almighty is Seeing to the end to retain a person to commit a sin or to do wrong.

Allah Almighty is Hearing to the end to restrict a person to use foul language.

Allah Almighty is Knowing to the end to make one afraid of plotting an evil against others.

These attributes are not mere vain titles of Allah Almighty as we can call a Negro as Camphor. These are full of meaning.

## (17) **THE DELIGHT SONG**

by N.Scott Monday

The poet feels himself light as a feather, fast as blue horse running in the field and shining as a fish rolling in the water. He also feels himself in good relation with the children as their shadow. He mentions the eagle playing with the air, cluster of bright beads, farthest star, the cold of the dawn, roaring of the rain, glitter on the crust of the snow, long track of the moon in a lake and the flame of the four colours and dream of everything to explain his own feelings. He considers himself alive because he has good relations with the earth, the lords, the beautiful and the fruitful.

## (18) **LOVE – AN ESSENCE OF ALL RELIGIONS**

by Jalauddin Rumi (Translated by Dr. Nicholson)

Love changes the thorns to roses. Bitter vinegar becomes sweet wine because of love. Love makes a throne of the stake (gallows). Because of love misfortune becomes good fortune, burning fire becomes soothing light, hard stone becomes as soft as butter and grief dresses itself as a joy. Love makes the

beasts harmless. And it changes the sickness into health and wrath into mercy. Love is so powerful that it lends life to the dead and transforms kings into slaves. Love has great power.

## (19) **A MAN OF WORDS AND NOT OF DEEDS**

by Charles Perrault (Translated by Robert Samber)

A man who always talks and boasts, and is not involved in any practical work is like a wild plant that grows in the garden unwontedly. And when it becomes grown up, the garden looks like snow in winter. It gives the garden shape of an idle bird that lacks warmth of life. And when the bird flies it becomes useless as an eagle flying high and providing no benefit to others. Then it roars like a lion at the door in the form of death. The door gives way and the death prevails everywhere as a penknife cutting through somebody's heart. In this way a man of words becomes a source of death for humanity.

## (20) **IN BROKEN IMAGES**

by Robert Graves

The person who trusts the clear images is quick but becomes dull while other who mistrusts his broken images becomes sharp and intelligent. The person who trusts the clear images does not consider them irrelevant while the other one tries to make them relevant. The former assumes them fact while the later tries to search the fact. The overconfident becomes ambiguous of his own abilities facing the failure while the thoughtful learns out of his failures. The overconfident gets confused because of his insufficient knowledge and the thoughtful gains new understanding working out his confusions.

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