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Class: I - B.A English

Subject: poetry - I

Sub code: 16ACCEN3

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A Song for St. Cecilia's Day

①

- John Dryden

Introduction

'A Song for St. Cecilia's Day' is a poem written by English poet and literary critic, John Dryden. The poem, written in 1687, is an ode, which is the form of lyric poetry. The poem is an ode in praise of St. Cecilia. He not only in honour of St. Cecilia, the inventress of the Organ, and the patroness of music, but also to show his awareness and appreciation of the greatness of music. Dryden talks of the evolution and dissolution of the universe both accompanied by music.

Evolution of the Universe - [An impact of divine music]

The poem begins with the description of the process of the creation of the universe. This is a Pythagorean doctrine. Pythagoras saw the universe as the manifestation of the heavenly harmony which he believed had held contrary things together. The four elements, hot, cold, moist and dry, which had been lying pell-mell, were arranged in proper order. This evolutionary process culminated in the birth of man. All the excellences in nature are contained in

Dryden has carefully selected different rhythms in describing different instruments. Thus he has conveyed their various kinds of impact.

Cecilia's organ a Communion with the divine.

Dryden refers to organ and its divine association in order to come to the central figure of the poem, St. Cecilia. But before that he refers to the mythical, musical figure of ancient Greece, Orpheus, who is attributed with so many miracles he had performed by his power of music with the lyre. But according to Dryden, St. Cecilia had performed greater miracle by attracting an angel who mistook earth for heaven by listening to her music. Jubal's wonder-struck primitive listeners pointed to the ancient belief that music emanated from god. Cecilia's achievement proved the bond between music and the divine.

Evolution and dissolution of the Universe by music.

In the grand chorus he concludes, by uttering a prophecy that as the Universe was created from the power generated out the musical harmony. So the Universe will cease to exist with the end of that harmony.

man just as all the musical notes in the scale are contained in the diapason.

Jubal's ravishing music

Dryden refers to the power of music produced by the ancient musician, Jubal on his primitive instrument which was just a tortoise shell with chords attached to it. When Jubal struck the chords, the listeners were enchanted. Here Jubal is introduced to show that music can force man towards divinity and thus testifies to its divine association. They thought that a god dwelt in the hollow of the shell and produced the ravishing music. There were sure a human being could not produce such strains.

The purpose of musical - instruments changed.

Musical instruments were later on used mostly for worldly purposes, says Dryden. He describes how wild music of trumpet incites the passion of anger in human hearts, and how the wild beats of drum leads them to take up arms against the enemies. The flute, the lute and the violin are used by lover's hopeless state. The lute's soft whisper sounds as their dirge or lamentation. The violin's sharp tone brings out all the pain. It is to be noted that

Echoing the Revelation from the Bible which describes how the angel Gabriel will play on the trumpet on the last day of the Universe, Dryden says that a trumpet will be heard in heaven on the Day of Judgement, the dead will arise and the living shall die and the Universe will be destroyed. The music from heaven will 'untune' the Universe and plunge it into its original chaotic state.

Conclusion

The all-pervasive nature of music is stressed by mentioning its influence on angels, human beings and inanimate matter. Similarly, the all-powerful nature of music is illustrated by its constructive role in the genesis of life and its destructive role on the Day of Judgement. First music 'tunes' and lastly it 'untunes'. Thus Dryden weaves neat symmetrical patterns in the poem.

Ode On Solitude

- Alexander Pope

Introduction

Ode is a poem addressed to a person or an object. In the present poem "ode on Solitude". The poet draws a beautiful picture of a happy man. He appreciates a simple, peaceful and quiet life. He wants to lead a simple life and wants to live in solitude, so that people, should not express sorrow over his death. Pope's ode on Solitude is a small poem expressive of his wish to shut out from all din and bustle and live and die in seclusion. The house that poet built himself at Twickenham on the Thames did not quite fulfil his dream.

Pope's Concept of Self-Dependence

Pope wants to live on a farm which will meet all his physical needs. First, the farm should not be large. A large farm will be unmanageable and create more problems than it solves. Second, he does not want to sweat and strain in order to earn and buy the farm. He would like to inherit it from his father. The farm should be free from pollutants. The air should be sweet to breathe.

In the second stanza he talks about the rights of the person. He has no relatives or friends, and whatever that person do, he does not need to think about 'what society thinks.' The person is free and he can get delight from the simple things of life. He does not to be extravagant to be satisfied. The person is happy with simple things, a house, a herd of cows, flock of sheep and trees, he sees as a peasant life and likes to live it. Society does not like these kinds of people, which is unfortunate but to the poet he regards such people as happy than all others. He thinks in a manner that, 'enjoy' what we have, without the worry of what society thinks.

The higher needs

In the third stanza, the poet has found that only people who live in such life, has a true chance to good health and such people can be free from the stress, included by the society and the people, no answering to anybody no nagging from others and no pushing of judgement, to the poet it is blessing to live without concern of the norms of society and they also do not need a lavish life of their enjoyment. The people who are alone they do not need to care about what others thinks what others do, what others say, they live their life for themselves only, and therefore they do not care what society is going to say or think.

In the fourth stanza, it shows clearly that what the poet, thinks his life of leisure 'sound sleep' by night, study and ease, together mixed, sweet recreation are most important parts of life. poet believes that desire for knowledge is good but study without pleasure, to achieve excellence is not accepted. 'A sound sleeps' refers to the sleep stages that are associated with less movement. All should have the freedom to have restful sleep which is not disturbed by worry and tension. The most importantly poet needs all these qualities to live life happily innocently and with meditation.

Death

The poet express death is inevitable. The poet does not shudder at the prospect of dying. He welcomes dying and being buried among his favourite trees. He does not even want a tombstone to be erected in his memory. The poet is humble. He probably thinks that he has not achieved anything great to be treasured by the future generations. Or, he thinks all are false. He does not want anybody to mourn his death insincerely.

Conclusion

The poet wants to live his life which should not be noticed by society so nobody will come to know about his death. He does not want to allow anyone to know where he is buried, that is why he says, "and not a stone tell when I lie".

Even after his death he wants to remain unknown and hidden from the society. poet wants to live alone but his life is not boring but it is the most exciting and peaceful life. One can argue that the poet is escaping from the society, but there is vast difference between escapism and solitude. Escapism is all about not accepting the society and solitude is all about first accept the society, and then when you feel not comfortable then reject it. Society is for human, humans are not for society so the right is of human, whether accept it or reject it. Solitude simple for living life for one's own self and without interference. The self-sufficient farm that pope thinks of its a paradise. It is unrealizable in these days of gobalization and interdependence.

The Village Preacher

- Oliver Goldsmith

Introduction:

The poem "The village preacher" by Oliver Goldsmith, narrates the story of an old school master. The poem starts with the depiction of an old, abandoned school. The poet tells that this school used to be "noisy mansion" and a stern and strict man used to teach there. The teacher was ruthless and every student feared him, because he was uncompromising when it came to rules and education.

During his time villages were depopulated on a massive scale. Villagers migrated to cities far and near in search of better prospects. The poem, "The Deserted Village" deals with the dangerous trend. It shows the ruin of a beautiful village called Auburn. It was not only natural scenes that were laid waste. The remarkable personalities who lived in Auburn were also left to languish. The village preacher was one such man.

The preacher's goal

The village preacher had a noble goal. He was unselfish. He was interested not in rising himself but in raising the lot of the poor parishioners. He readily helped the people

Who came to his house. He treated even the beggar with love and affection.

The preacher's performance of his priestly duties.

The preacher had two important duties to discharge. One was to stand by the dying parishioner and talk to him soothingly and reconcile him to the prospect of imminent death. The dying parishioner's fear of leaving his near and dear ones and passing into the unknown beyond was lessened by the preacher's gentle talk.

The dying man's last faltering utterance was in praise of the preacher's service. Thanks to the village parson, the dying wretch became conscious of the unbounding love and the infinite mercy of God.

The different approaches of the preacher

The preacher adopted a variety of techniques in dealing with the parishioners. He was gentle and mild towards some of them because they were amenable to reason. They could be corrected easily. Some others were inveterate sinners. The preacher treated them with severity. But this was a mere pose. He was basically merciful. Goldsmith compares the preacher to the mother bird which practises a variety of ways to train its young ones to fly. The preacher delivered memorable sermons in the church. So much so that

even those who came with the intention of mocking at him were influenced by him and stayed to pray sincerely. The preacher was a charismatic personality.

Village preacher compared to tall cliff.

Goldsmith winds up his portrayal of the village preacher with an epic or Miltonic simile. A tall cliff has its base on the earth. storms move round and round the base to the cliff. The top of the cliff soars into the sky. It is not all affected by the storms. The village preacher's mind is like the top of the mountain. Just as the mountain top is not affected by the wind and the weather, the preacher's mind is not affected by worldly problems.

It always rests undisturbed with God. All the troubles and vexations of life gather round him, but they are powerless, to affect his thoughts, which are eternally centered on Heaven.

Conclusion

Summing up the character of the village preacher, Goldsmith declared that the good clergyman was always virtuous and sympathetic towards the sufferer and the sinner. His sense of duty took him wherever his presence was needed.

The Lamb

- William Blake

Introduction.

The Lamb is one of the simplest poems of Blake. The symbolic meaning of it is almost clearly stated in the poem. The Lamb which is probably the most important among the poem of innocence. Here the symbols of child, lamb and Christ are assimilated each other. The poem begins with the child like directness and natural world that show none of the signs of grownups. The entire poem is in question - answer form to the child himself answering the questions put by him to the lamb. The lamb represents the innocence, humility, and submissiveness of man. The poem also reflects Blake's religious mysticism.

The Lamb endowed with life and beauty?

He describes the lamb as he sees it. The lamb has been blessed with life and with capacity to drink from the stream and feed from the meadow. It has been allotted with bright, soft and warm wool which serves as the clothing.

It has the tender voice which fills the valley with joy. The child, too is an innocent child. Christ

was also a child when he first appeared on this earth, as son of God. The child enjoys the company of the lamb who is analogous to the child. The poem displays the innocence the joy and affection. The lyric is counterparts to the tiger. 'The Lamb' and 'The tiger' represent the two contrary states of the human soul. The lamb represent innocence and humanity whereas the tiger represents a fierce force within man.

Lamb - associated with christ

The child asks who made the little lamb in a typical child's tone, rhythm and diction. The lamb he says, has been given the "cloth of delight" soft and "woolly" clothing, and such a tender voice that makes all the valleys rejoice. Besides, God has give the lamb the feet and told it to go and feed itself by the stream and over the meadow. Blake equates the lamb to christ who was also as gentle and trustful as the lamb. The lamb is loved by children. The child in Blake's poem invokes, God's blessings on the lamb.

A religious note is introduced in the second-half of the poem, in the image of christ as a child. The child answering his own questions, says that the lamb are 'little' but they are parts of His created universe. The Lamb is at first the symbol of God's created innocence, and later that innocence is 'identified' with Jesus.

(14)

The lamb is a harmless creature. It is gentle and meek and allows itself to be butchered. Similarly christ was gentle and did not harm anybody and allowed Himself to be crucified, forgiving the very people who killed him.

The Spirit of childhood glorified

The poem glorifies the very spirit of childhood - its purity, its innocence, and its tenderness, and that natural affection and sympathy that a child feels for small creatures. The goodness of God-given innocence leads, the poet to praise the worthiness of his creation. The child goes on to trace a similarity between itself and christ. child was born a little child. Both the lamb and the child are images of christ.

Conclusion

In the poem, Blake stresses one important aspect of christ namely, His gentleness and his protectiveness towards weak, defenceless creatures. The lamb represents the innocence, humility, and Submissiveness of man. The goodness of God-given innocence leads the people poet to praise the worthiness of Creation.

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Interior Questions - Unit - I [Poetry - I]

I Two Marks

1. What is the name of the sonnets series written by Spenser?
2. What is the poet's "vaine assay"?
3. How does the poet praise his beloved?
4. How does the poet want to immortalize his beloved?
5. What is the theme of the Sonnet - 18?
6. Why does the poet say that the beloved's eternal Summer shall not fade?
7. How does Shakespeare describe the qualities of his beloved?
8. What is the style, technique and language of sonnet - 18?
9. Who is the "mortal thing" referred to here?
10. What is the form and rhyme scheme of the Spenserian Sonnet?

i) Five marks:

1. Write an account on the technical excellences of Spenser's Sonnet?
2. How does the poet propose to immortalize his love?
3. What does the poet do? How does his beloved react to it?
4. Write a note on Imageries of the Sonnet 18?
5. How is Summer compared with the youth?
6. How is the youth immortalized in the sonnet -18?

ii) Ten Marks

1. A critical appreciation of Spenser's Sonnet "One day I wrote Her Name upon the strand".
2. Write an essay on the theme and technical excellence of Spenser's Sonnet - 75.
3. How is the fair youth compared by Shakespeare in his Sonnet-18?

I Two Marks.

1. What is metaphysical conceit?
2. What type of poem is "A Dialogue Between the Soul and the Body"?
3. Who speaks first? What is complaint?
4. How does the Soul feel that is imprisoned in the Body?
5. How does the Soul force the Body?
6. What is impossible to find in this world, according to Donne?
7. What is mandrake? Why is the comparison made?
8. What are the other impossibilities mentioned by Donne?
9. How does Donne conclude the poem?
10. Why does the poet feel that a journey to find a constant woman would be futile?

II Five marks.

1. Explain - "Go and catch the falling star" as a metaphysical poem.
2. How does Donne equate the beauty and charity of woman with impossible things?
3. Why is the Body a 'dungeon' for the soul? Describe.
4. Why does the Body consider the Soul an evil spirit?
5. Marvell's poem 'A Dialogue between the Soul and the Body' is full of pathos. Explain.

III Ten Marks.

1. Write a critical appreciation of the poem "Go and catch a falling star".
2. How is the conflict between the human body and the Soul described by Marvell in this poem?
3. How is the fundamental aspect of our human predicament presented by Marvell in the poem "A Dialogue Between the Soul and the Body".

I Two marks:

1. What is a pastoral elegy?
2. Who are the muses?
3. What does Apollo remind Milton?
4. What question did Milton ask to the goddesses of rivers and Mountains?
5. Who was the mother of Orpheus?
6. How was the Ocean at the time of the shipwreck?
7. Why cannot the body of Lycidas be covered with flowers?
8. Whom does Camus represent?
9. Why does St. Peter mourn the death of Lycidas?
10. Why does Milton call St. Peter 'The Pilot of the Galilean Lake'?

II Five marks:

1. What does Milton say about the Catholic Church?
2. Write about the second mourner in Lycidas.
3. Write down the three types of clergy as portrayed by Milton?

III Ten Marks:

1. Describe how Milton attacks the corrupt clergy in his 'Lycidas'.
2. Write about the digression on frame in 'Lycidas'.
3. Write about the autobiographical element in 'Lycidas'.
4. Discuss "Lycidas" as a pastoral Elegy.

I Two Marks:

1. What made Dryden to write the poem 'A Song for St. Cecilia's Day's?
2. How was the musical instrument of Jubal?
3. What did the people think of Jubal's music?
4. What does the words 'Tunes and untunes' refer to?
5. Write brief note on Orpheu's music on his lyre.
6. How, according to Dryden, will the end of the universe take place?
7. Why does pope consider himself blessed?
8. How does pope propose to get his attire?
9. How does pope propose to spend his spare time?
10. How does pope propose to get a few acres?

II Five Marks.

1. How does pope seek to fulfil his basic needs on the solitary farm?
2. How does Dryden praise Cecilia's organ?
3. Write an account on Jubal's music.
4. How did the universe evolve, according to Dryden?

III Ten Marks.

1. What made Dryden to write the poem 'A Song for St. Cecilia's Day'?
2. Critically analyse pope's attitude to Ode on Solitude.

Unit-V - poetry - I

20

I Two Marks.

1. What were the thoughts of the Village Preacher?
2. What did the parishioners do after the church service?
3. How did the village preacher treat the Dying man?
4. How would the dying react to the kindness of the village preacher?
5. What question does the child ask of the lamb?
6. What gifts did the creator give the lamb?
7. What are the places in which grass is grown by the creator?
8. What are the common qualities among the lamb, the child and christ?
9. What kind of voice does the 'Lamb' have?
10. Who is the author of the poem 'The Lamb' and from which collection is the poem taken?

II Five marks:

1. How is the lamb associated with christ?
2. What kind of life does the lamb live?
3. How is the spirit of childhood glorified in the poem 'The Lamb'.
4. Write an account on the way the village preacher treated the dying parishioner.
5. What does Goldsmith compare the village preacher? - Explain.

III Ten Marks.

1. Write an essay on the village preacher as the complete humanitarian.
2. Write an essay on the village preacher as a compound of manifold virtues.
3. How does Blake identify the innocence of the lamb with that of Jesus christ?