

INDIAN WRITING IN ENGLISH

Answer the following :

1. What are the themes of the poem ?

Poetry, love and birdwatching are the themes of the poem.

2. What does the poet wait for ?

The poet waits for right words and right images to compose a fine piece of poetry.

3. What does the poet express in the poem, 'poet, lover, bird watcher' ?

In the poem, 'poet, lover, bird watcher' the poet expresses through a closer association of ideas that good poetry is a process of long waiting like loving and bird watching.

4. Write a note on Rani's hair -

Rani had a long hair which looked like king cobra sitting coiled up when it was tied up in a knot. When it was left loose, it hung along her body and came right up to her silver anklets.

5. Who gave the three pieces of a root to Kurudarra and why?

One day a saint came to Kurudarra's parents' house. She entertained him and saw to it that he was comfortable. She cooked food for him and let him eat to his heart's full. He was so pleased with her that he gave her three pieces of a root and told her that any man that ate one of the three pieces would marry Kurudarra.

Paragraph Writing :

1. What do you think of Naga's love for Rani ?

Kunudarva gives pieces of love root to Rani and advises her to mix its paste in the food of her husband in order to win her husband's love. Rani unwittingly administers a dose of the love root to Naga and so Naga cannot help loving Rani.

Appanna, Rani's husband has deserted her and keeps her under lock and key. He enjoys himself in the company of his concubine. He is not bothered about his wife and her feelings. Rani longs for love. Naga is under the influence of the love root. So, the Naga meets Rani by assuming the shape of Appanna and they make love to each other.

Rani is condemned to live like a prisoner and work like a slave in the house of Appanna. It is Naga who changes her life. His love makes her a woman, a wife and a mother. When Rani becomes pregnant, Appanna accuses her of adultery, complains her to the village

Elders and threatens to throw her into the boiling oil, but the reverse happens, Rani is praised and raised to the position of a goddess and her husband is asked to devote his life in her service. So, it because of the love of the Naga, Rani gets a honourable place in the society. She gets a husband, a son and a servant for the whole life. Naga's who gets all these of Rani, loves her life and lets her live in peace and prosperity. It is an example of true love. So Naga's love is the most important part of the play.

2. Write short notes on the images in the poem, 'poet, lover, bird watcher'.

The poem, 'poet, lover, bird watcher' is known for its beautiful and well worked images. These images are evocative and suggestive and they work on three interpenetrating levels of the poet, the lover and the bird watcher. What is notable about the use of images in this poem is that the change from one image to the other is so unnoticed that the poet, lover and bird watcher

lose their individual identities for once and merge into another to make the poem proceed to its end. In the poem the literal and the symbolic merge and become undistinguishable. The lines, "..... patient love, relaxing on a hill."

To note the movement of a "timid wing"

are literal when applied to the bird watcher but become a wonderful symbol for the poet waiting for the right word and right images, or the lover waiting for his beloved to turn to him. Birds turn into words and the remote shore to which the bird watcher goes to watch the rare birds become the "heart's dark elfoot" where the poet looks for themes and images for his poetry. In this poem the images merge into each other like the lovers in the art of love. On the whole the images in the poem are vivid and striking.

3. For what do the poet, the lover and the bird watcher wait and how are they rewarded?

The bird watcher has to wait patiently and watch the bird fluttering its timid wings. He has to go to the deserted lanes where the rivers flow in silence to watch the rare birds. The lover has to observe patiently the calm and dignified movements of his beloved. He has to explore love in a remote place like the hearts dark floor. The poet has to wait patiently for the right moment when the inspiration would dawn on him and right words would flow spontaneously out of him. All the three are rewarded by his lady love turning to him and surrendering to him not only her body but also her soul. The poet patiently passes through remote, crooked and zigzag paths of his psyche and consciousness and gets enlightenment and inspiration and right words flow to him to compose a fine piece of poetry that has the power to activate the dense and make men see and hear much more than they would have otherwise done. Thus the patient waiting of the poet, the lover and the bird watcher are rewarded.

4. Write short notes on the language and style of Girish Karnad.

Girish Karnad is the master of rich vocabulary. So, he is capable of using appropriate words for different situations. His language suits both situations and characters. His language is refined, lucid and precise.

Karnad frequently makes use of symbols. He also makes frequent use of idioms and phrases taken from common experience in order to give his style the charm of familiarity. But at the same time he does not sacrifice grace in his style. His style is, however, straightforward and idiomatic. There is typical Indianness about his style in his plays.

Essay Writing :-

1. Bring out the evolution of thought in the poem, 'poet, lover, bird watcher'.

Introduction :-

Nissim Ezekiel, one of the major poets in English literature has expressed valuable ideas on literature and life in his poetry. His poetry is a landmark in Indian English poetry because he could write approximating to the demands of the present day world. He has a high conception of poetry which combines both inspiration and pains taking effort. To him poetry is the use of right words at the right moment. He is a skilful artist who uses apt and suggestive words for his purpose from a rich stock. 'poet, lover, bird watcher' is one of the finest poems of Nissim Ezekiel. In this poem he expresses his views on the art of poetry through vivid and beautiful images.

Themes of the poem :

In the first stanza the poet brings about a comparison between the poet, the lover and the birdwatcher. Very cleverly he brings together his two pet themes, poetry and

along with his comparatively new found enthusiasm for bird watching. Thus the poem has become a synthesis of all that the poem has loved best in his life. All the three persons, the poet, the lover and the birdwatcher have one thing in common. They have to watch the movement and wait patiently.

iii) Waiting :-

The bird watcher has to wait patiently and watch the bird fluttering its timid wings. If he is impatient, the bird will be frightened and will fly away. In order to watch rare birds he has to go to deserted lanes and to the places where the river flows silently and to the shore. The lover has to observe patiently the calm and dignified movements of his beloved. If he loses his patience, his beloved would turn away from him. He has to explore love in a remote place like the heart's dark floor. The poet has to wait patiently for the right moment for inspiration to dawn on him, so that right words would flow out of him spontaneously. If he is in a hurry to write a poem, it would not produce the desired effect on the readers. So, for all the three, stillness is recommended as it is in stillness that one listens to the stirring of the souls which is a pre-requisite to the study of freedom and creativity.

(iv) Rewards :-

The patient waiting brings its own reward for the poet, the lover and the bird watcher. The bird watcher is rewarded when the bird is suddenly caught in the net. The lover is rewarded when his beloved whole heartedly surrenders both her body and soul to him. The poet who passes through remote, crooked and zigzag paths of his psyche and consciousness, gets enlightenment and inspiration. So right words flow out of him and take the form of a fine piece of poetry that has the power activate the senses and make men see and hear much more than they would have otherwise done.

(v) Imagery :-

The imagery in the poem is vivid and striking. The transition from one image to the other in the poem is so unobtrusive that the poet, the lover and the bird watcher lose their separate identities for once and merge into one another to let the poem proceed to its end. Vivid phrases and the beautiful and well worked images that are evocative and suggestive work on three interpenetrating levels.

vi) Conclusion :-

Thus in the poem 'poet, lover, Birdwatcher', the poet shows through a close association of ideas that good poetry is a process of long waiting like loving and bird watching. The best poet waits for right words and the best poet writes when he is really inspired.

2. Write an essay on the plot construction in 'Naga Mandala'.

Introduction :-

The plot of the play, 'Naga Mandala' has been cleverly designed. It has a prologue and two acts, all of which are knit together. The plot has a single story, that is of Rani and has no sub-plot to divert the attention of the reader from the main characters and episodes.

(ii) prologue :-

The prologue sets the tone of the play and provides a beginning to the story presented in the two acts. Flames which are supernatural beings assemble in a ruined temple. The idol of the temple is unidentifiably broken.

The first Flame reports that the master of its house is so miserly that he does not buy oil to light the lamp. The third Flame reports that its master needs flame to enjoy the beauty of his wife. The fourth Flame tells that its master had a sick old mother who died that morning and the master wanted to be alone with his wife, so he has let the flame free. The report of the Flames show that people in general are not bothered about morals and men use women to satisfy their desires.

A new Flame joins them. It tells about an old lady who suspects that her husband has illicit affairs with other women, sees a woman coming out of her husband's room in her hallucination. So, she weaves a story and a song which take the form of a woman and sari respectively. The woman wrapped in the sari becomes a story which is to be told to save it from being choked to death. The Flames cannot pass the story to others as they are not human beings. The dramatist who is in the temple offers to hear the story on condition that he should not fall asleep during the tale as a saint has told him that he has to die if he does not keep himself awake one whole night in that month. Now,

the story will get the relief and the dramatist will save his life.

(iii) Link between prologue and the two Acts :

The story continues its story in Act I and Act II and thus links the prologue and the two Acts. The story tells the story of Rani married to Appanna and how she is cruelly treated by him, who spends most of his time with a concubine. So, Naga assumes the shape of Appanna and makes Rani happy.

(iv) Symmetry between beginning and the end :

The Flames and the Man appear in the end of the play and provide a link between the beginning and the end. Rani accepts the reality of Naga's love for her. Though Naga is killed and cremated, he is not dead. Rani lets him live in her dresses for ever. Rani feels indebted to Naga who has given her husband, child, servant and has raised her to the position of a goddess. The Flames and the Man meet in the end to show that the Man is saved by the story from his imminent death. Thus the play gets a happy ending.

(v) Kurudavva episode :

The kurudavva episode has been cleverly interlarded with the main theme. The story would have been incomplete without kurudavva because it is she who comes to the help of Rani and it is the love root given by kurudavva to Rani, that makes the Naga meet Rani. But kurudavva's son leaves her to fend for herself and so she goes about the city calling her son. As this episode is not connected with the progressing story, it has a loose end.

(vi) Conclusion :-

The last episode of Naga getting a refuge in Rani's tresses is the master stroke in plot-making. The Naga's story is rounded off and the play is formally closed.