

SONG OF THE RAIN

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Summary

Rain is a divine gift of God and it proves very blessed for the parched and needy earth. One of the most divine manifestations of nature, it spreads joy and freshness all around. It beautifies, adorns and rejuvenates fields, trees, flowers and spreads vitality everywhere. Its droplets are like shimmering pearls and jewels from God's crown. It gives joy in all forms, the thunder announces its arrival and the rainbow signifies its departure. Rain cements the relationship of love between the fields and the clouds. It takes birth from the depth of the sea, forms clouds and its cycle completes the full circle when it descends down in a million little ways. The arrival of the rain is like a welcome song, beating softly on the windows. All in all, rain has a multidimensional personality. It is born out of sighs, spreads laughter and descends like tears. It ties the earth and heaven in a spiritual bond, like a God, granting all wishes.

सारांश

सूखी और पानी के लिए तड़पती धरती के लिए वर्षा भगवान का दिया हुआ उपहार है। वर्षा प्रकृति का दैवी रूप है और सब ओर आनन्द और ताज़गी फैलाती है। वह हर वस्तु को आकर्षक बनाती है, सुन्दरता फैलाती है और पेड़ों, मैदानों, फूलों में एक नई स्फूर्ति और

नया जीवन भरती है। वर्षा की बूँदें, प्रभु के मुकुट से निकले हुए चमकीले मोतियों और आभूषणों के समान हैं। गरजते बादल उसके आने की सूचना देते हैं, और इन्द्रधनुष उसके प्रस्थान की घोषणा करते हैं। वह सब ओर खुशी फैलाती है। वर्षा धरती और बादलों के प्रेम की पुष्टि करती है। उसका जन्म समुद्र की गोद से होता है फिर वह बादलों का रूप लेती है और जीवन की यात्रा को पूरा करती हुई धरती पर अनेक रूप में समा जाती है।

वर्षा का आगमन एक सुखदायी अभिनन्दन, स्वागत गति की तरह है जो धीमे धीमे आपकी खिड़कियों पर सुनाई देता है। वर्षा का व्यक्तित्व बहुमुखी है। वह आहों से पैदा हुई वाष्प खुशी फैलाती हुई अश्रुधारा के रूप में (Rain drops) धरती पर आती है। वह पृथ्वी और स्वर्ग को एक अटूट आध्यात्मिक बन्धन में बाँधती है, जिस प्रकार ईश्वर हमारी सभी आशाओं को पूरा करते हैं। और हम उससे बंधे हुए हैं।

Word-Meaning

- **Dotted** – marked with dots
- **Pearls** – (here) drops resembling a pearl in shape
- **Rejoice** – to be happy
- **Cure** – to treat
- **Ailment** – disease
- **Earthly life** – worldly life
- **Soar** – to fly high
- **Descend** – to come down
- **Sigh** – to let out a long, deep breath
- **Affection** – love as deep as sea
- **Spirit** – soul, energy

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS (SOLVED)

1. On the basis of your understanding of the poem, answer the following questions by choosing the correct option.

(a) The rain calls itself the 'dotted silver threads' as _____.

- (i) the shimmering drops fall one after the other.
- (ii) it ties heaven and earth.
- (iii) it dots the earth with shimmering water.
- (iv) it decorates the fields.

Ans : (i) the shimmering drops fall one after the other.

(b) The tone and mood of the rain in the poem reflects: its _____.

- (i) love for the earth.
- (ii) desire to take revenge.
- (iii) merriment as it destroys.
- (iv) desire to look beautiful.

Ans : (i) love for the earth.

2. Answer the following questions :

(a) Why is the rain divine?

Ans : Rain is divine, it comes straight from heaven. It is God's best gift. Moreover, it is life giving.

(b) In this universe, rain performs many functions.

What are those?

Ans : Rain beautifies and refreshes all surroundings. It spreads happiness all around and all objects of nature feel rejuvenated. It gives life and quenches the thirst of the dry and barren earth. Rain spreads prosperity and joy in a million hearts.

(c) "When I cry the hills laugh;

When I humble myself the flowers rejoice;

When I bow, all things are elated".

'Cry 'humble' and 'bow' indicate different intensity' with which the rain falls. Explain the three in context.

Ans : 'Cry' means thunder and when it reverberates, the hills echo like laughter. When the rain falls lightly, it

is very pleasing to the flowers. When rain gives way to rainbow, it is a delight to behold for everyone.

(d) *How do you think the rain quenches the thirst of the fields and cures cloud's ailment?*

Ans : The fields are needy, dry and parched. The clouds are bursting with moisture and when it fall down as rain, the clouds are relieved.

(e) *Think about 'million little ways in which the rain embraces the trees.' Mention a few of them.*

Ans : Rain falls down in millions of droplets. Many times it takes the form of snow, sleet or hail.

(f) *"All can hear but only the sensitive can understand." What does the poet want to convey?*

Ans : When the rain falls, everyone can hear its sound. But very few can sense or understand its blessed nature. It requires great sensitivity, refinement of mental faculties to understand the exceptional function the rain performs. Anything that gives life is akin to God.

(g) *Notice the imagery built around 'sigh of the sea'*

'laughter of the field' 'tears of heaven'. Explain the three expressions in context of rain.

Ans : When the water evaporates from the sea, it is imagined as sighs that rise from human breast. When rain falls on the fields, the happiness and joy expressed by field is akin to laughter. When raindrops fall, they appear like tears falling from heavens.

(h) *How would you express rain as*
 – an agent of floods?
 – a source of water for dams?

Ans : When rain causes flood, that is its destructive aspect. When it supplies water for dam, then that is its creative aspect.

(i) *"I am like earthly life". Why does the poet call rain as earthly life?*

Ans : Just like everything on earth is born and dies, so does rain. It is referred to as earthly life because it has a beginning and comes to an end too. It begins at the bottom of the mad elements and ends under the lofted wings of death.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Read the extracts given below and choose the correct option.

1. *I am dotted silver threads dropped from heaven
 By the gods. Nature then takes me, to adorn
 Her fields and valleys.
 I am beautiful pearls, plucked from the
 Crown of Ishtar by the daughter of Dawn
 To embellish the gardens.*

(a) **The poetic device used in these lines is :**

- (i) Simile (ii) Personification
 (iii) Metaphor (iv) (i) & (iii)

(b) **'Dotted' here means :**

- (i) Spots (ii) A sweet dish
 (iii) Marked with dots (iv) Dedicated

(c) **'To embellish the gardens' means :**

- (i) To set up a new garden
 (ii) To dig up the gardens
 (iii) To grow fruits in the gardens
 (iv) To decorate the gardens

Ans : (a) (iv) (b) (iii) (c) (iv)

2. *When I cry the hills laugh;
 When I humble myself the flowers rejoice,
 When I bow, all things are elated.
 The field and the cloud are lovers
 And between them I am a messenger of mercy
 I quench the thirst of the one;
 I cure the ailment of the other.*

(a) **The poetic device used in these lines is :**

- (i) Simile (ii) Alliteration
 (iii) Metaphor (iv) Personification

(b) **'Quench' means :**

- (i) to travel (ii) to question
 (iii) to satisfy thirst (iv) to fetch something

(c) **In the poem the 'messenger of mercy' refers to :**

- (i) the sun (ii) the moon
 (iii) the trees (iv) the rain

Ans : (a) (iv) (b) (iii) (c) (iv)

3. *I emerge from the heart of the sea and
 Soar with the breeze. When I see a field in
 Need, I descend and embrace the flowers and
 The trees in a million little ways.
 I touch gently at the windows with my
 Soft fingers, and my announcement is a
 Welcome song. All can hear, but only
 The sensitive can understand.*

(a) **The poetic device used in these lines is :**

- (i) Simile (ii) Personification
 (iii) Metaphor (iv) Alliteration

(b) **"I see a field in need" means :**

- (i) The field is for sale
 (ii) The field needs sowing
 (iii) The field needs watering
 (iv) The field needs manure

(c) **'Soar with the breeze' refers to :**

- (i) clouds (ii) birds
 (iii) trees (iv) rain

Ans : (a) (iii) (b) (ii) (c) (i)

NON-MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow :

1. *I am beautiful pearls
plucked from the crown of Ishter
by the daughter of Dawn
to embellish the gardens*

(a) Who does 'I' refer to in these lines ?

Ans. 'I' is referred to the rain.

(b) What does 'I' compare itself to ?

Ans. I (the rain) compares itself to the beautiful pearls plucked from the crown of Ishter (goddess of fertility)

(a) What is meant by the phrase 'to embellish the garden' ?

Ans. It means to decorate the garden.

2. *The field and the cloud are lovers
and between them I am
a messenger of mercy
I quench the thirst of the one
I cure the ailment of the other*

(a) Why are the field and the cloud called lovers ?

Ans. They are called lovers as they are far away from each other and desperately want to meet.

(b) How does the rain help the field and the cloud ?

Ans. The rain helps them by acting as a messenger of mercy. It quenches the thirst of one and cures the ailment of the other.

(c) In these lines 'messenger of mercy' refers to whom ?

Ans. It refers to 'the rain'.

3. *The voice of thunder
declares my arrival;
The rainbow announces my departure
I am like earthly life
which begins at*

*The feet of the mad elements and ends
under the upraised wings of death.*

(a) What declares the arrival of the rain ?

Ans. The thunder announces the arrival of rain.

(b) How is the departure of the rain announced ?

Ans. The departure of the rain is announced by the rainbow.

(c) How does the poet compare the rain to the earthly life ?

Ans. Just like everything on the earth takes birth and dies, so does the rain. It has a beginning and comes to an end.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What are the various comparisons that have been made for rain? Discuss

Ans. The comparisons made for rain are — dotted silver threads — beautiful pearls — earthly life — sigh of the sea — laughter of the field, the tears of heaven.

2. Discuss the theme of the poem 'Song of the Rain'.

Ans. It is a song of the rain. The poet has described in various beautiful ways calling it silver threads, messenger of mercy, beautiful pearl drops, sigh of the sea, laughter of the fields. The voice of thunder announces its arrival and the rainbow announces its departure. It satisfies the thirst of the field, it decorates the gardens. It makes the hills happy. It is a divine gift of God.

3. Describe the cyclic nature of rain as described by the poet. How does it differ from its scientific version?

Ans. The poet describes the cyclic nature of rain through — 'Sigh of the sea' refers to the process of evaporation of sea water-forming clouds, 'a tears of rain' refers to falling of raindrops from the sky, Thunder is the cry of the sky. The poet endows the rain with divine attributes, earthly beauty, human emotions. The scientific

version is simply of evaporation, condensation and precipitation.

4. Why does the rain call itself 'a messenger of mercy'?

Ans. The poet says that rain is a messenger of mercy for the fields and the clouds which are lovers. The fields are thirsty, the rain quenches their thirst the clouds are overburdened and it relieves them of the excess water.

5. How is the arrival and the departure of rain announced? [CBSE 2011 (Term II)]

The rain is a divine gift of God and it proves very blessed for the parched fields. It beautifies, adorns and rejuvenates fields, trees, flowers and spreads vitality everywhere. Since it spreads joy and freshness all around the thunder announces its arrival and the rainbow in the sky announces the departure of the rain.

6. What does the poet say about the field and the cloud in the poem?

Or

In the poem 'Song of the Rain,' how does rain help in establishing a bond between the field and the cloud?

[CBSE 2011 (Term II)]

The poet says that fields and the clouds are lovers. The fields are needy and the clouds are bursting with moisture, the rain acts as a messenger of mercy for them. It quenches the thirst of the fields and cures the ailment of the clouds by relieving them of the moisture.

7. How is the falling of rain like a ‘welcome song’?
[CBSE 2011 (Term II)]

Falling of rain is like a welcome song. It proves very blessed for the parched and needy earth. It spreads joy and freshness all around. It beautifies, adorns and rejuvenates fields, trees and flowers, and spreads vitality everywhere. It cements relationship of love between fields and the clouds. It ties the earth and the heaven in a spiritual bond.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Write a short note on the pictorial aspect of the poem?

Ans. We can see the pictorial aspect of the poem throughout. The poet has used the poetic device of personification throughout. The rain tells its tale calling itself various things such as ‘dotted silver threads’, ‘beautiful pearls’. It describes its action by — when I cry the hills laugh — when I humble myself the flowers rejoice — when I bow all things are elated. This describes the natural phenomena of thunder and falling of rain making the hills and flowers rejoice — ‘Voice of thunder’ The rainbow announces its departure — paints beautiful vivid pictures of rain — Again the lines — ‘I descend and embrace the flowers and the trees in a million ways’ — paints a vivid picture of the rain falling over flowers and tress.

2. How does the poet impart a divine feel to rain? Why is it compared to the Goddess of fertility?

Ans. The poet imparts a divine feel to the rain by using such description as — “Silver threads dropped from heaven by the gods” — “Nature then takes me to adorn her fields and valleys.” Again, see these lines — beautiful pearls, plucked from the crown of Ishtar (Goddess of fertility) by the daughter of Dawn

Thus above-mentioned description endows the rain with divine origin. It has been compared to the Goddess of fertility because when rain falls and waters the baked, dry earth, the thirsty fields and trees, they all get rejuvenated, multiply i.e. they produce. Thus it acts as an agent of fertility.

3. Write an autobiography of rain.

[CBSE 2011 (Term II)]

I am rain. I work under the divine aegis of God. God has endowed me certain duties which I perform religiously and happily. My main aim is to spread joy and happiness all around. I beautify, adorn and rejuvenate the fields, trees and flowers and spread vitality everywhere. Since I give joy to everyone my dear friend thunder announces my arrival and my friend rainbow appears on the sky when I depart. I am greatly pained to see the two lovers—fields and clouds — desperate to meet each other. I try to lessen their pain by acting as a messenger of mercy for them. Some people call me the ‘goddess of fertility’ because when I fall on dry fields and trees, they all get rejuvenated and multiply. Despite all these divine qualities I am not proud of myself, I am just like an earthly being. Just like a human being takes birth and die, I also have a beginning and an end.

The Rain.

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

(A) READING/WRITING

Write an informal letter to a friend, telling him one of the most enjoyable days you have ever spent — ‘The day I got drenched’. Discuss the pleasant sensation and the pleasure of braving the rain drops.

(B) GRAMMAR

There are many proverbs related to rains, like a rainy day. Find out at least five more. Write them down.

- Find their meanings
- Read and share in the class

(C) CLASS DISCUSSION

Have a class discussion on the topic : “Rain – an agent of destruction or a source of fertility”?

- Share the outcome with others.