

11th English New Course NBF: EnglishKeys Academy

Chapter 06: The Darkling Thrush

Stanza 1

I leant upon a coppice gate
When Frost was spectre-grey,
And Winter's dregs made desolate
The weakening eye of day.
The tangled bine-stems scored the sky
Like strings of broken lyres,
And all mankind that haunted nigh
Had sought their household fires.

Word	Urdu Meaning
Coppice	جھاڑی دار باغ
Spectre-grey	بھوت جیسا سرمئی
Dregs	باقیات / بچا کھچا
Bine-stems	بیلوں کی ٹہنیاں
Lyres	ساز (موسیقی کا آلہ)

میں ایک جھاڑی دار باغ کے دروازے پر جھکا کھڑا تھا
جب سردی بھوت کی مانند سرمئی تھی،
اور موسم سرما کی تلخ باقیات نے
دن کی مدھم ہوتی روشنی کو ویران کر دیا تھا۔
الگھی ہوئی بیلوں کی ٹہنیاں آسمان پر یوں چھائی تھیں
جیسے ٹوٹے ہوئے سازوں کی تاریں ہوں،
اور ارد گرد کی تمام انسانیت
اپنے گھروں کی آگ کے پاس جا چکی تھی۔

Paraphrase : Leaning on a gate in the middle of winter, I felt the gloom of the dying day. The air was grey and ghostly. The trees were bare, their stems scratching the sky like broken instruments. Humanity seemed absent, having retreated to the warmth of their homes.

Comprehension Questions

- What is the mood in this stanza?
► Gloomy, cold, and lifeless.
- Which poetic device is used in "Frost was spectre-grey"?
► Metaphor (Frost compared to a ghost)
- What does "broken lyres" symbolize?
► Loss of harmony, silence, and decay.

Stanza 2

The land's sharp features seemed to be
The Century's corpse outleant,
His crypt the cloudy canopy,
The wind his death-lament.
The ancient pulse of germ and birth
Was shrunken hard and dry,
And every spirit upon earth
Seemed fervourless as I.

Word	Urdu Meaning
Corpse	لاش
Crypt	مقبرہ / قبر
Canopy	چھت / چھایا
Lament	مرثیہ / نوحہ
Fervourless	بے جذبہ / سرد

زمین کی نوکیلی شکلیں یوں لگ رہی تھیں
جیسے صدی کی لاش پڑی ہو،
اس کا مقبرہ بادلوں کی چھت،
اور ہوا اس کا مرثیہ۔

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پیدائش اور زندگی کی قدیم حرکت
سکڑ کر خشک ہو چکی تھی،

اور زمین پر ہر روح

ویسی ہی بے جان لگ رہی تھی جیسے میں۔

Paraphrase : The land looked like the corpse of the past century. The sky was its tomb, the wind its mournful cry. All signs of life—birth, growth—had dried up. I, like every other soul, felt completely lifeless and uninspired.

Comprehension Questions

1. **What is the central idea here?**
► The poet mourns the death of hope and vitality as the century ends.
2. **What does “Century’s corpse” symbolize?**
► The dying spirit of the past century.
3. **What poetic device is used in this stanza?**
► **Extended metaphor** (comparing nature to a dead body)

Stanza 3

At once a voice arose among
The bleak twigs overhead
In a full-hearted evensong
Of joy illimited;
An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,
In blast-beruffled plume,
Had chosen thus to fling his soul
Upon the growing gloom.

Word	Urdu Meaning
Bleak	ویران / خشک
Evensong	شام کا نغمہ
Illimited	بے حد / لا محدود
Gaunt	دبلا پتلا
Beruffled	ہوا سے بکھرا ہوا

اچانک ایک آواز بلند ہوئی

ان خشک ٹہنیوں میں سے جو میرے سر کے اوپر تھیں،

ایک دل سے نکلا شام کا نغمہ

بے حد خوشی سے لبریز،

ایک بوڑھا، کمزور، اور دُلا پتلا،

تیز ہوا میں بکھرے پروں والا،

نے فیصلہ کیا کہ وہ اپنا دل

بڑھتی ہوئی تاریکی میں ڈال دے۔

Paraphrase : Suddenly, a joyful voice rang out from the bare branches above. An old and frail thrush sang a powerful evening song, filled with unexplainable happiness. Despite the darkness around, he chose to share his soul through song.

Comprehension Questions

1. **Who is the source of hope in this stanza?**
► The aged thrush.
2. **What does the thrush symbolize?**
► Hope, faith, and resilience in despair.
3. **What poetic device is used in “fling his soul”?**
► **Metaphor** – singing compared to giving one’s soul.

Stanza 4

So little cause for carolings

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Of such ecstatic sound
Was written on terrestrial things
Afar or nigh around,
That I could think there trembled through
His happy good-night air
Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew
And I was unaware.

Word	Urdu Meaning
Carolings	خوشی کے گیت
Ecstatic	پر جوش / خوشی سے بھرپور
Terrestrial	زمینی / دنیاوی
Blessed	بابرکت / نیک
Unaware	بے خبر

اتنی کم وجوہات تھیں

اسنے خوشی بھرے نغموں کے لیے،

نہ قریب نہ دور زمین پر

کوئی خوشی دکھائی دیتی تھی،

کہ میں صرف یہی سوچ سکا

کہ اس کے خوش کن نغمے میں کچھ امید چھپی تھی،

جسے وہ جانتا تھا

اور میں بے خبر تھا۔

Paraphrase : There was no reason in the world, near or far, for the bird to sing with such joy. Yet he did. His song made me wonder—was he singing because he knew of a hope that I didn't?

Comprehension Questions

1. **What is the main theme here?**
► Hidden hope in the face of despair.
2. **What idea troubles the speaker?**
► The bird's joy seems unjustified—perhaps he knows something the speaker does not.
3. **What poetic device is “some blessed Hope”?**
► **Personification** – Hope is presented as a conscious being.

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