

9th English New Course NBF: EnglishKeys Academy

Ch 07: Mowing Poem

Stanza 1

Word	Meaning in Urdu	Synonyms	Antonyms
Scythe	دراعتی	sickle, blade	—
Whispering	سرگوشی کرنا	murmuring, rustling	shouting, yelling
Perhaps	شاید	maybe, possibly	surely, definitely
Lack	کی	shortage, absence	abundance, plenty
Beside	کے ساتھ، کے قریب	next to, along	far, away

There was never a sound beside the wood but one,
And that was my long scythe whispering to the ground.
What was it it whispered? I knew not well myself;
Perhaps it was something about the heat of the sun,
Something, perhaps, about the lack of sound—
And that was why it whispered and did not speak.

جنگل کے کنارے کبھی کوئی اور آواز نہ تھی،
سوائے ایک آواز کے—میری لمبی دراعتی کی جو زمین سے سرگوشی کر رہی تھی۔
وہ کیا سرگوشی کر رہی تھی؟ میں خود بھی ٹھیک سے نہیں جانتا؛
شاید وہ سورج کی گرمی کے بارے میں کچھ کہہ رہی تھی،
یا شاید خاموشی کی کمی کے بارے میں کچھ؛
اور شاید اسی لیے وہ بولی نہیں، بلکہ سرگوشی کی۔

Paraphrase : There was no sound in the quiet place near the woods except the soft hiss of my scythe brushing the earth. I didn't fully know what it was saying—perhaps it spoke of the heat in the sun or the quiet all around. Maybe that's why it only whispered and never said words aloud.

Stanza Questions and Answers

1. What figure of speech is used in "my long scythe whispering to the ground"?

Personification, because the scythe is described as whispering like a human.

2. What is the central theme of this stanza?

Solitude and the meditative connection between man, nature, and labor.

3. What does the "lack of sound" symbolize in the stanza?

It symbolizes the peaceful, undisturbed environment of the woods and the inner stillness of the worker.

Stanza 2

Word	Meaning in Urdu	Synonyms	Antonyms
Idle hours	فارغ وقت	free time, leisure	busy time, duty
Fay/Elf	پری / جن	fairy, sprite	—
Earnest	مخلص، سنجیدہ	sincere, serious	casual, insincere
Swale	چلی زمین / ڈھلوان	hollow, meadow	hill, rise
Feeble-pointed	کمزور نوک والے	faint-tipped, delicate	sharp, strong
Orchises	آرکڈز (ایک پھول)	wild orchids, blossoms	—
The fact	حقیقت	reality, truth	illusion, fantasy

Written by: **Naeem Haider, Director EnglishKeys Academy**

(M.Phil. English (gold medal), M.A English (Silver medal), MA TEFL, B.Ed. M.A. Urdu, M.A. Islamiat, EMI (UK), TEYL (USA))

For regular classes, individual coaching, notes and crash courses, contact EnglishKeys Academy at +92 311 1537563

It was no dream of the gift of idle hours,
Or easy gold at the hand of fay or elf:
Anything more than the truth would have seemed too weak
To the earnest love that laid the swale in rows,
Not without feeble-pointed spikes of flowers
(Pale orchises), and scared a bright green snake.
The fact is the sweetest dream that labor knows.
My long scythe whispered and left the hay to make.

یہ کسی فارغ گھڑی کے تحفے کا خواب نہ تھا،
نہ ہی کسی پری یا جن کی طرف سے آسان دولت کا۔
سچ سے بڑھ کر کوئی بات کمزور لگتی
اس مخلص محبت کے سامنے، جس نے گھاس کو قطاروں میں کاٹا،
پھولوں کی کمزور نوکوں کے ساتھ
(زرد سی آر کڈز)، اور ایک روشن ہبز سانپ کو ڈرا دیا۔
حقیقت ہی وہ سب سے میٹھا خواب ہے، جو محنت جانتی ہے۔
میری دراتی نے سرگوشی کی اور کٹی ہوئی گھاس چھوڑ دی۔

Paraphrase : It wasn't a lazy dream or a wish for magical wealth from fairies. Nothing beyond the truth could satisfy the deep love I felt for this work—the labor of shaping the field, flowers trembling at the blade, and even a green snake darting away. To a working heart, reality is the sweetest dream. My scythe whispered again and moved on, leaving the cut hay behind.

Stanza Questions and Answers

1. **What literary device is seen in "gift of idle hours" and "gold at the hand of fay or elf"?**
Allusion, referring to mythological beings like fairies and elves.
2. **What is the central theme of this stanza?**
The dignity of labor and finding contentment in real, honest work rather than fantasy.
3. **Explain the symbolic meaning of "The fact is the sweetest dream that labor knows."**
It means that for a hardworking person, reality—however plain—is more fulfilling than any illusion or fantasy.