



Chapter No:- 3 The Bangle Seller

Glossary

Loads	Collections (of bangles)
Rainbow-tinted	having the colours of the rainbow in them
Lustrous	bright; shining
Meet (adj)	Proper
Flushed	shining brightly
Tranquil	calm
Aglow	shining
Limpid	transparent and clear
Hue	color
Tinkling	making a light ringing sound
Luminous	shining
Gold flecked	spotted with gold dots
For her ... midway	for a middle-aged woman
Cherished	nursed

INTRODUCTION

The Bangle Seller is a poem describing the life of Indian woman, the customs and traditions they partake in. the poem uses the theme of bangles, an important ornament for Indian women to adorn themselves with.

The setting of the poem is at a temple fair where the bangle sellers call out people to have a look at their bangles and buy them for their daughters and wives.

SUMMARY

The poem "The Bangle Sellers" is written by Sarojini Naidu. The poem is about bangles and the bangle sellers. The bangle sellers carry the loads of bangles to sell at the fairs. The bangles are delicate bright and colorful circles of light. As a woman journeys through the different stages of her life, the color, texture and design of her bangles also change accordingly. The bangle seller says that some bangles are for happy daughters and some for happy wives. The narrator draws



colorful images from nature to reflect the exact hue and tint of the bangles. The bangle seller says that he has bangles not only for maidens but also for a middle-aged woman who in her fruitful pride worships the gods at her husband's side.

Central Idea

The bangles are the representation of Woman's life and each color of type of bangle represents each stage of an Indian Woman's life from puberty to midlife.

Thinking about the poem

Q1. Who is the speaker in the poem?

Ans. A bangle seller is the speaker in the poem.

Q2. How are the bangles described in the first stanza of the poem and who are these bangles for?

Ans. In the first stanza, the bangles are described as shining, delicate and bright. They are described as rainbow tinted circles of light and as tokens of radiant lives. These bangles are for the happy daughters and happy wives.

Q3. The poet uses different similes for the bangles. What are these?

Ans. The poet compares the bangles to the mountain mist, to the flower buds and to the fields of sunlit corn.

Q4. Name the different colors mentioned in the poem. What do they represent?

Ans. Colors of the rainbow, silver and blue, and sunlit corn color, purple and gold flecked grey are the different colors mentioned in the poem. These colors represent the bangles suitable for different age groups of women and the different stages of their lives.

Q5. The word "some" has been repeated in the poem. What is it?

Ans. The word "some" represents the different types of bangles being sold by the bangle seller.

Q6. Explain the following lines.

Some are meant for maiden's wrist

Silver and blue as the mountain mist

Ans. In these lines the narrator says that some bangles are suitable for the young unmarried maiden's wrist. They are coloured silver and blue resembling the mountain mist.

Poetic devices

Metaphor: Rainbow tinted circles of light.

Simile: blue as the mountain mist, flushed like the buds, like fields of corn etc.

Imagery: Cradled fair sons on her breast; fields of sunlit corn; bloom that cleaves



Rhyme Scheme: aabbcc

Analysis of the poem

Themes:

- I. Womanhood: The stages of woman's life are represented through the color of bangles in this poem. Each color represents each stage she crosses. Silver and blue, or Pink – maidenhood; yellow- morning of her wedding; red or orange (Fiery shades) symbolize is her bridal night; purple and gold- motherhood and matriarchy.
- II. Colorful Imagery: Naidu incorporates nature and the various hues of nature to represent her subject matter. She covers all kinds of colors to present emotion, hue, hope, happiness, desire, love and pride.

TONE OF THE POEM

The tone of poem is joyful and lively. Each stanza has a certain tone. The first stanza recalls the cry of bangle-sellers who travel on foot to sell their products. The second and the third stanza have a profound sense of happiness and lively energy. The tone of the last stanza is dipped in pride and a sense of fulfillment.

Chapter No:- 10

PRAYER FOR STRENGTH (Rabindranath Tagore)

INTRODUCTION

'Prayer for Strength' is an inspirational poem by the versatile Rabindranath Tagore. The poem is in the form of a prayer. The poet is asking the lord to provide him with the strength so that he can overcome all the hurdles in life. Tagore talks of spiritual strength and richness. He does not talk of any material poverty. He does not want any spiritual weakness in his heart he wants it to be removed. There should no room for it in his life whatsoever.

SUMMARY

The poem begins with the poet asking Lord to strike at the very poverty in his heart. He is asking God to provide him strength so that he can lightly bear the joys and sorrows of life and not get carried away with it. The poet entreats God to clear the malice in his heart and fill it with love and compassion. He wants strength so that his love can be fruitful in service. He asks God to give him strength never to abandon the poor or kneel before a tyrant. At the end of the poem, the poet prays to God to keep him away from the insignificant things of the world and let him have the strength to submit his will to the Will of GOD.



Thinking about the Poem

Q.) Why does the poet want God to strike at his heart?

Ans. The poet implores God to strike at his heart to remove the hardheartedness and the unsympathetic elements from his heart. Besides, he wants to be a loving and caring human beings.

Q2. What does the poet want the strength for?

Ans. The poet wants strength to bear joys and sorrows. He wants strength to make his love fruitful in service. He needs strength never to disown the poor or bow before a tyrant. Moreover, the poet needs strength to avoid the daily trifles and submit his will to the Will of God.

Q3. How can love be made meaningful in one's life?

Ans. Love is meaningful when it is fruitful and serves others.

Q4. What should be our attitude towards the poor?

Ans. Our attitude towards the poor should be very sympathetic. We should never disown or neglect them. We should always help the poor and work for their welfare. They are equal before God and it is our duty to treat them kindly.

Q5. What does 'bend my knees' signify?

Ans. The bending of one's knees means to surrender before a powerful person. Here, the poet prays to God to give him strength to resist and not to bend the knees before a tyrant. In other words it means to give in before somebody and to accept his supremacy.

Q6. Why does the poet want to raise his mind high above 'daily trifles'?

Ans. The poet wants to raise his mind high above the daily trifles so that he is not involved in the issues that fill one's heart with malice and prejudice. He wants to exalt his inner with love, mercy, patience and obedience.

Q7. Why does the poet ask for strength to surrender his will to God's will?

Ans. The poet wants to surrender his will to the Will of God in order to live a pure and obedient life. The man's desires are very powerful and it will not let him live according to God's will. So, the poet pray for such strength to do so.

Poetic device:

1. Alliteration: Repetition of consonant sound at the beginning of the words within a line. E.g. Strength to Surrender my Strength.
2. Anaphora: The repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive clause. E.g. give me the strength (line 3, 4, 5, 6).