

CHILD HOOD

SUMMARY IN HINDI

कवि अपने बचपन को खो देने से परेशान है। वह जानना चाहता है कि कब उसने अपना बचपन खो दिया अर्थात् उसका बचपन कब बीत गया। वह अलग अलग अन्दाजे लगाता है। वह अन्दाजा लगाता है कि क्या उसका बचपन 11 वर्ष की आयु में वीत गया था, या फिर तब बीता था जब उसे पता चला कि नर्क और स्वर्ग केवल कहने की बातें हैं वास्तव में ये कहीं मौजूद ही नहीं है।

फिर वह अन्दाजा लगाता है कि उसका बचपन तब वीता जब उसे इस बात का पता चलने लग गया था कि उम्र में बड़े लोग उतने अच्छे नहीं हैं जितने वे दिखाई देते हैं। वे प्यार भरी बातें तो करतें हैं, और प्यार करने का उपदेश तो देते हैं पर वास्तव में वे उतने प्रेमपूर्ण होते नहीं हैं।

कवि फिर अन्दाजा लगाता है कि उसका बचपन उस दिन बीता होगा जिस दिन उसे यह पता चला कि उसका दिमाग वास्तव में उसका है। अर्थात् वह अपने दिमाक का उपयोग अपने अनुसार जैसे चाहे वैसे कर सकता है न कि दूसरों की मर्जी के अनुसार, या फिर तब बीता होगा जब उसे पता चला कि उसके विचार उसके अपने हैं न कि अन्य लोगों के।

कवि अन्त में पूछता है कि उसका बचपन कहाँ गया ? फिर खुद ही उत्तर भी देता है कि उसका बचपन कहीं ऐसी जगह चला गया है जो कि— सबके द्वारा भुला दी गयी है। अन्त में वह यही कहता है कि मेरा बचपन किसी छोटे बच्चे के चेहरे में जाकर छुप गया है।

MAIN POINTS

1. The poet seems to be obsessed with the question: 'When did my childhood go?'
2. When He completed eleven years, he grew rational. He realised that 'hell' and 'haven' are imaginary concepts and don't exist anywhere but only in the mind.
3. There came a period in the poet's life when he saw hypocrisy in the lives of the grownups. Perhaps that was the time when he lost his childhood.
4. When the poet developed his own individuality that was the stage when he ceased to be a child.
5. He started thinking independently without being influenced or directed by other.

6. In the last stanza the poet does not ask when he lost his childhood but asks where his childhood has gone to?
7. The poet himself gives an answer. His childhood stands for innocence and it is lying hidden in the innocent face of an infant.

A. Read the stanza given below and answer the questions that follow :

- " When did my childhood go?

Was it the day I ceased to be eleven,
Was it the time I realised that Hell and Heaven,
Could not be found in Geography,
And therefore could not be,
Was that the day!"

1. How did the poet realise his being grown up?
2. What does the Hell and heaven stand for?
3. What kind of phase of his life does the stanza reveal?

Ans.a. The poet realised his being grown up, when he was able to differentiate between truth and fiction.

Ans.b. It stands for the world of imagination that fascinates only small children. These are nothing but the product of our imaginative mind that helps the person to escape from reality.

Ans.c. The stanza reveals the phase of rationalism.

B. Read the stanza given below and answer the questions that follow:

" When did my childhood go?

Was it the time I realised that adults were not
All they seemed to be,
They talked of love and preached of love,
But did not act so lovingly,
Was that the day!"

1. What does the stanza expose?
2. According to the poem when did his childhood go?
3. What contrast did he find in adult's behaviour?

Ans. 1. The stanza exposes the hypocrisy of the adult.

Ans. 2. It might go when he was able to analyse the contrast of adult's way of thinking and way of life.

Ans. 3. They talked of human values but did not practise in their day to day life.

C. Read the stanza given below and answer the questions that follow:

“When did my childhood go?

Was it when I found my mind was really mine.

To use whichever way I choose,

Producing thoughts that were not those of other people

But my own, and mine alone

Was that the day!”

1. Explain ‘ My mind was really mine’?
2. Producing thoughts that were not those of other people means?
3. Which phase of life does this stanza show?

Ans1: It means that poet was completely in control of himself.

Ans2: The poet has gained confidence to express his view independently.

Ans.3: Individuality, transitional period – between childhood and adulthood.

D. Read the stanza given below and answer the questions that follow:

“Where did my childhood go?

It went to some forgotten place,

That's hidden in an infant's face,

That's all I know.”

1. Why is the poet eager to know the lost place of his childhood?
2. Where is the poet able to find his lost childhood?
3. What is the rhyme scheme of the above stanza?

Ans1: (I) The poet cherished the childhood most.

(ii) The poet once again wishes to lead the innocent life of a child.

(ii) The poet is eager to know where his childhood is hidden.

Ans2: In the innocent face of infant.

Ans3: a b b a

Answer the following question up to 40 words.

Q.1 Do you think the poet is nostalgic about his childhood? Does he feel the loss of his childhood as a great loss?

Ans: Naturally, the poet grown nostalgic about his childhood. means innocence and loss of it means t he loss of innocence. The poet suffers from a sense of loss ans speculates on how and when he suffered that loss.

Q.2 What does the poets say about the hypocrisy of the grown ups?

Ans: there was a process of growing up. He was no more a child when he could see through the hypocrisy of the grown up people. It was a step towards adulthood. The grownups are not as good as they appear to be. Nor do they practise love in their actions as they preach it so frequently.

Q3. What is the difference between childhood and adulthood? Do you think the only difference is between, that of innocence and 'hypocrisy'?

Ans: It appears so. Childhood stands for innocence. It knows no crafts or hypocrisy. The moment the man is able to differentiate between the preaching and actions of the grownups, he takes a step forward towards maturity. Hypocrisy and crafty nature is associated only with the world of adults.

Q4. Has the poet got an answer to the question: "Where did my child hood go?"

Ans: It seems that the poet has got the final answer. He realises that his childhood is lying hidden in an infant's innocent face and has been deliberately forgotten. His lost childhood is lying hidden somewhere in the innocence which is present only over an infant's face.

Q6. Identify where the poet talks of:-

1 rationalism 2 hypocrisy 3 individuality

Ans:

1. The poet talks of his rationalism in first stanza. Here he comes to realise for the first time that hell and heaven are imaginary concepts.
2. The poet talks about hypocrisy in second stanza when he comes to know about that adults are not what they appear to be. They talk and preach of love but seldom practice it.
3. The poet talks of his individuality in third stanza. Here is a person whose mind is really his own and who can think independently. Who is not directed and influence by others.

Q7. What according to poem, is involved in the process of growing up?

Ans. As a person grownups, he becomes rationalist, and egoist and a hypocrite. He accepts nothing that is not logical. He does not believe in hell and heaven. He becomes very conscious of his self. He wants to follow his own desire and ideas. He becomes an egoist. He talks of

love and preaches of love, but is not so loving in actions. In short, he loses all his innocence of his childhood.



By: Kundn Singh Dhama
Lecturer in English
GIC Dwalthal

Sources : NCERT Books