

The Sermon at Benares



Betty Renshaw

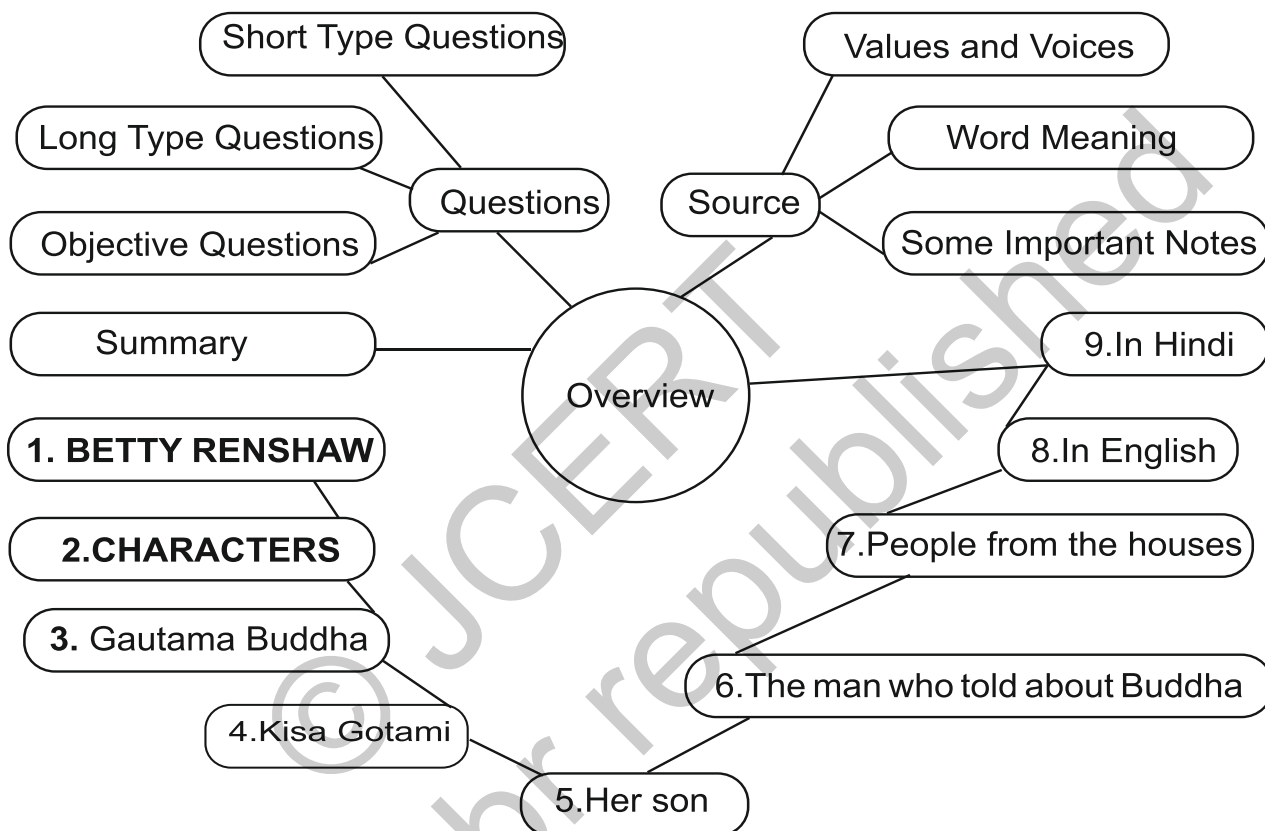
I. BETTY RENSHAW-

1. Born in the Renshaw family on September 3, 1927.

2. Completed her graduation as valedictorian from Shannon High

School and further secured the Bachelor of Arts degree from Mississippi College.

3. She started her career as a preschool teacher and, in due course of time, shared her experience by teaching other preschool teachers.

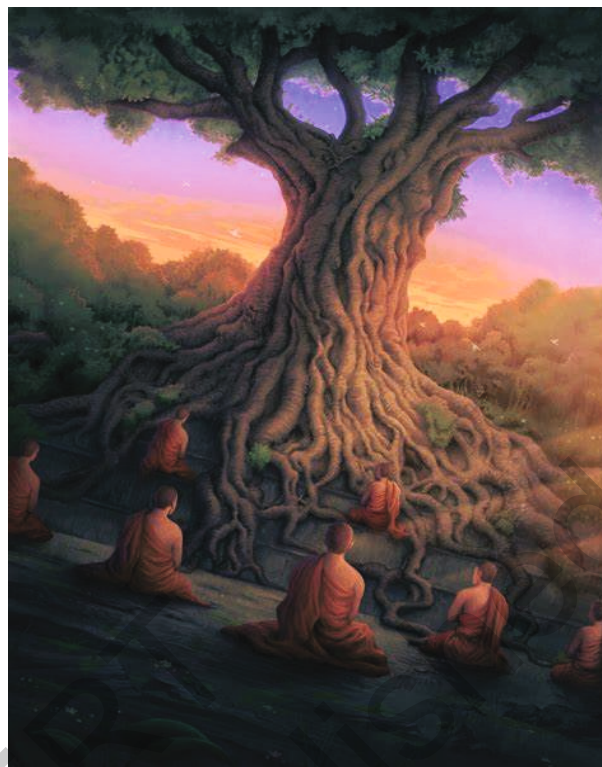


II. WORD MEANINGS

1. **Sculptures-** Incarnation
(मूर्ति कला)
2. **Befitted-** suited
(सहीक, उपयुक्त)
3. **Shielded-** protected
(रक्षा की)
4. **Funeral procession-** procession
of a dead body
for cremation
(शव—यात्रा)

5. **Monk-** monastic (भिक्षु);
6. **Alms-** begging (भिक्षा)।;
7. **Enlightenment-** spiritual
knowledge
(आध्यात्मिक ज्ञान)
8. **Vowed-** swore (कसम
खाई)
9. **Preached-** propagated
(उपदेश दिया)
10. **Dipping-** sinking, dive
(डुबकी)

11. Preserved-	protected (रक्षा की)
12. Reflects-	shows (दिखाना)
13. Physician-	doctor (डॉक्टर)
14. Mustard-	seed -सरसों
15. Procure-	get (प्राप्त करना)
16. Grief-	sorrow (दुःख)
17. Geary-	tired (थक गई)
18. Hopeless-	in despair (दुःख में)
19. Flickered up-	shone (चमका)
20. Extinguished-	put out (बुझ गया)
21. Desolation-	deep sorrow (गहरा दुःख)
22. Immortality-	deathlessness (अमरत्व)
23. Mortals-	human beings (नश्वर)
24. Earthen vessels-	pot made of baked clay (मिट्टी का बर्तन)
25. Potter-one who makes pots	potter (कुम्हार)
26. Kinsmen-	relatives (रिश्तेदार)
27. Lamenting-	grieving (अफ़सोस करना)
28. Slaughter-	killing (वध करना)
29. Composed-	controlled (शांत)
30. Blessed-	the one who gets blessing (जिसे आशीर्वाद मिला हो)



III. SOME IMPORTANT NOTES

1. The Bodhi Tree (Tree of Wisdom)-

The Peepal Tree where Siddhartha sat for seven days and attained the utmost enlightenment. The tree is represented as having leaves in the shape of a heart. The tree is also seen as a metaphor for the journey to enlightenment.

2. Buddha- A person who has attained full enlightenment. The title was given to the founder of Buddhism, Siddhartha Gautama after he attained Bodhi, the ultimate knowledge.

3. City of Benares- Currently known as Varanasi, a city on the Ganges river in northern India that has a central place in pilgrimage, death, and mourning in the Hindu world.



4. The River Ganges- A major river in India which has great cultural, religious and historical significance .

5. Earthen vessels- These vessels were heat-resistant and were used for cooking and for boiling clothes. An earthen vessel can be broken anytime like the life mortals.

IV. CHARACTERS

1. Gautama Buddha- Gautama Buddha was a yogi and a religious teacher of the Indian subcontinent. He lived in the latter half of the first millennium BCE (563 B.C. – 483 B.C.) . According to this story he began his life as a prince named Siddhartha Gautama, in northern India. At twelve, he was sent away for schooling in the Hindu sacred scriptures and four years later he returned home to marry a princess. They had a son and lived for ten years as befitted royalty. At about the age of twenty-five, the Prince, heretofore shielded from the sufferings of the world, while out hunting chanced upon a sick man, then an aged man, then a funeral procession, and finally a monk begging for alms. These sights so moved him that he at once went out into the world to seek enlightenment



concerning the sorrows he had witnessed.

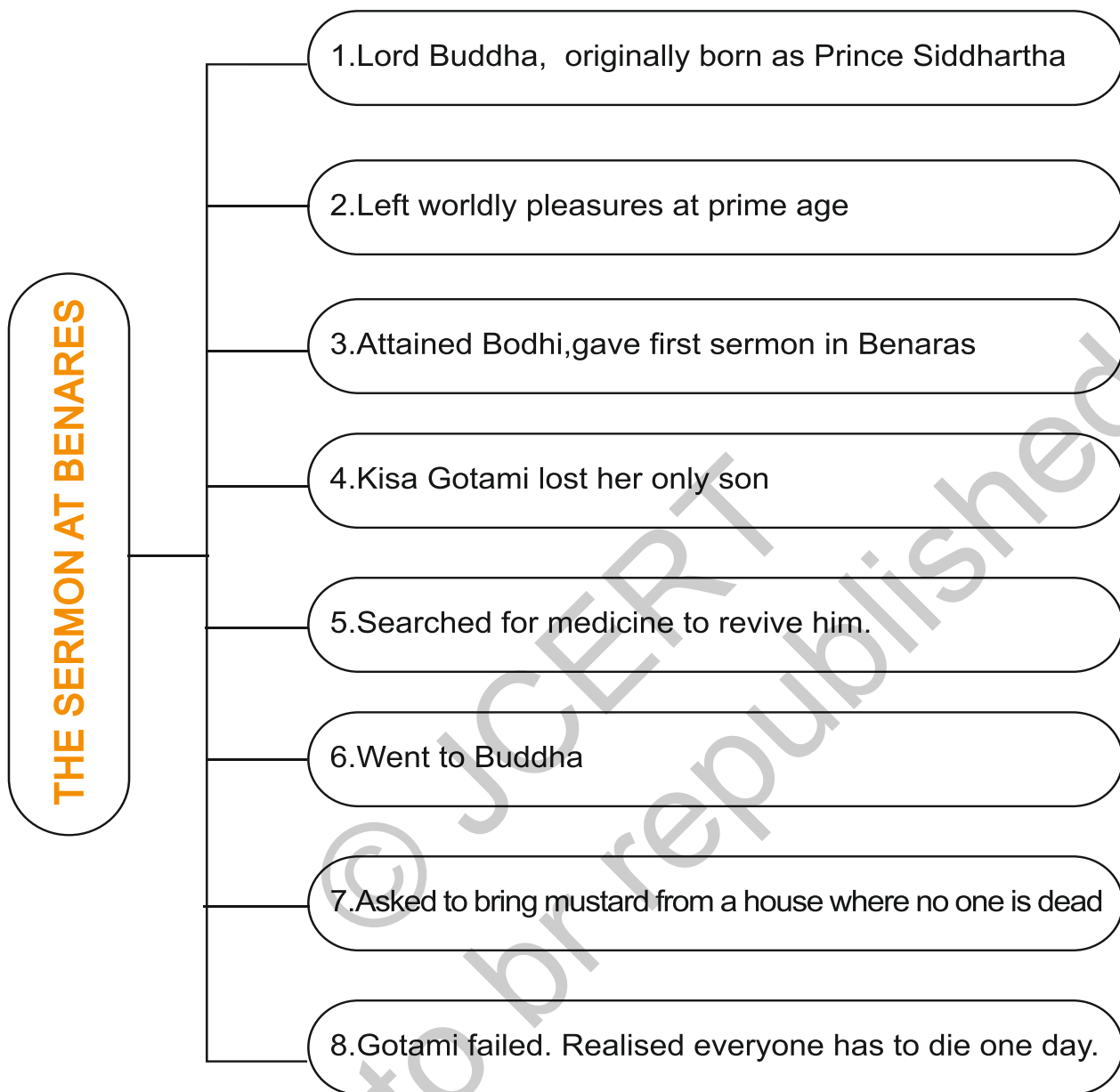
2. Kisa Gotami- In this story Kisa Gotami is the second main character and the first person whom Buddha delivered his first sermon.

3. Kisa Gotami's only son- He was actually a dead child whom her mother carried from one door to another with the hope of finding some medicine to revive his life.

4. The man who told Gotami to meet Buddha- He met Gotami who was carrying his dead child and finding medicine to make him alive again. He felt pity upon her and asked her to meet Buddha.

5. People from the houses where Gotami went to find mustard seeds as per Buddha's instruction- These people pitied Gotami and gave her mustard seeds. But when she asked, "Did a son or daughter, a father or mother, die in your family?" they answered her, "Alas! The living are few, but the dead are many. Do not remind us of our deepest grief."

V. SUMMARY OF THE TEXT



SUMMARY IN ENGLISH

“The Sermon at Benares” describes the life of Lord Buddha who was originally born as a prince in the royal family. But at the prime age of his youth he left all the worldly pleasures behind him and went in search of salvation. Upon attaining ‘Bodhi’ he gave his first sermon in the city of Benares. He made

a lady named Kisa Gotami realize that men are mortal. He preached to her that one should not get upset about what is happening as it only increases the sufferer’s pain and sorrows.

Gautama Buddha began his life as a prince named Siddhartha Gautama, in northern India. His childhood name was Siddhartha Gautama. He was

sent to a far away place to study Hindu sacred scriptures at the age of twelve. After four years he returned and got married to a princess. Soon, they both were blessed with a son and continued to live the royal life for about ten years.

Then the day came when Siddhartha realized how much pain had surrounded his world and he was unaware of it. One day on his way to hunt, he met a very old and sick man. Then he saw the arrangement of a funeral. He also witnessed a monk looking for alms in pain. These sights so moved him that he at once went out into the world to seek enlightenment concerning the sorrows he had witnessed.

He wandered for seven years and finally sat down under a peepal tree. After seven days he was enlightened and renamed the tree the Bodhi Tree (Tree of Wisdom). People also started to call him Buddha.

Buddha gave his first sermon in the city of Benares to a lady named Kisa Gotami. The lady was a grieving mother who had just lost her son. She was suffering from huge pain moving from one house to the other to find medicine to save her son. Someone told her to meet Lord Buddha who listened to her problem and asked her to bring mustard seeds from a house with no history of deaths. The lady became hopeful and started to look for a house where death has not touched once. But as she continued her search found that every family

was suffering with the sorrow of death. She became hopeless and returned to Lord Buddha. Now she realized how selfish she was to find a cure for his son's death when the entire world is experiencing the same pain. She also realized the reason why Lord Buddha told her to find a house with no history of death. She understood that men are mortal and we would embrace death when the time came.

पाठ का सारांश

“बनारस में उपदेश” भगवान बुद्ध के जीवन का वर्णन करता है जो मूल रूप से शाही परिवार में एक राजकुमार के रूप में पैदा हुए थे। लेकिन अपनी युवावस्था में उन्होंने सभी सांसारिक सुखों को अपने पीछे छोड़ दिया और मोक्ष की तलाश में चले गए। ‘बोधि’ प्राप्त करने पर उन्होंने बनारस शहर में अपना पहला उपदेश दिया। उन्होंने किसान गोतामी नाम की एक महिला को यह एहसास कराया कि मनुष्य नश्वर है। उन्होंने उसे उपदेश दिया कि होनी को कोई टाल नहीं सकता है। और मनुष्य को इससे परेशान नहीं होना चाहिए, क्योंकि यह केवल पीड़ित के दर्द और दुखों को बढ़ाता है।

गौतम बुद्ध ने अपना जीवन उत्तर भारत में सिद्धार्थ गौतम नामक राजकुमार के रूप में शुरू किया था। उनके बचपन का नाम सिद्धार्थ गौतम था। बारह वर्ष की आयु में उन्हें हिंदू धर्मग्रंथों का अध्ययन करने के लिए दूर स्थान पर भेज दिया गया था। चार साल बाद वह लौटा और उसने एक राजकुमारी से शादी कर लिया। जल्द ही, उनका एक बेटा पैदा हुआ और लगभग दस वर्षों तक शाही जीवन जीते रहे।

फिर वह दिन आया जब सिद्धार्थ को एहसास हुआ कि यह दुनिया कितना दर्द से घेरा हुआ है और वे इससे अनजान हैं। एक दिन शिकार के रास्ते में, उन्हें एक बहुत बूढ़ा बीमार आदमी मिला। फिर उन्होंने अंतिम संस्कार की व्यवस्था देखी। उन्होंने एक साधु को भी दर्द में भिक्षा की तलाश में देखा। इन दृश्यों ने उन्हें इतना प्रभावित किया कि वह एक बार दुनिया घर में सारे दुखों के बारे में ज्ञान प्राप्त करने के लिए निकल पड़े। वह सात साल तक भटकता रहा और अंत में एक पीपल के पेड़ के नीचे बैठ गया। सात दिनों के बाद उन्हें ज्ञान प्राप्त हुआ और उन्होंने पेड़ का नाम बोधि वृक्ष (बुद्धि का वृक्ष) रख दिया। लोग उन्हें बुद्ध भी कहने लगे।

बुद्ध ने अपना पहला उपदेश बनारस शहर में किसी गोतमी नाम की एक महिला को दिया था। वह महिला एक दुखी मां थी जिसने अभी-अभी अपने बेटे को खो दिया था। वह अपने बेटे को बचाने के लिए दवा खोजने के लिए एक घर से दूसरे घर भटक रही थी। किसी ने उसे भगवान बुद्ध से मिलने के लिए कहा, जिन्होंने उसकी समस्या सुन कर उसे एक ऐसे घर से सरसों लाने के लिए कहा जहां मृत्यु का कोई इतिहास नहीं है। महिला आशान्वित हो गई और एक ऐसे घर की तलाश करने लगी, जहां मौत ने एक बार भी छुआ न हो। लेकिन जैसे-जैसे उसने अपनी खोज जारी रखी, उसने पाया कि हर परिवार मृत्यु के दुख से पीड़ित था। वह निराश हो गई और भगवान बुद्ध के पास लौट आई। अब उसे एहसास हुआ कि अपने बेटे की मौत का इलाज खोजने के लिए वह कितनी स्वार्थी हो गई थी, जब कि पूरी दुनिया हर पल इस दर्द का सामना कर रही है। उसे यह भी समझ आया कि भगवान बुद्ध ने उसे एक ऐसा घर खोजने के लिए क्यों कहा, जिसमें मृत्यु का कोई इतिहास नहीं है। वह समझ गई कि मनुष्य नश्वर हैं और समय आने पर हमें मौत को गले लगाना पड़ेगा।

VI. OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS

1. The source of Sermon at Benares is-

- A. Values and Voices
- B. The Truth of Life
- C. Buddha, the Monk
- D. None

Ans. (A)

2. Gautam Buddha began his life as a -

- A. Monk
- B. Prince
- C. Priest
- D. None

Ans. (B)

3. The early name of Buddha was-

- A. Ashoka
- B. Kanishka
- C. Siddharth Gautam
- D. none of these

Ans. (C)

4. Buddha learned the sacred Hindu scriptures in -

- A. his Palace
- B. his school
- C. his farmhouse
- D. none of the above

Ans. (B)

5. On the day of hunting Buddha
Saw

- A. An old man
- B. A funeral procession
- C. A monk begging arms
- D. All the above

Ans. (D)

6. Buddha wandered for ___ Years
and finally sat down Under a
peepal tree.

- A. Five B. Seven
- C. Ten D. Two

Ans. (B)

7. Which was named as Bodhi
Tree after Buddha's Enlighten-
ment?

- A. A mango tree
- B. A neem tree
- C. A peepal tree
- D. None

Ans. (C)

8. Buddha got enlightenment after
how many days?

- A. 20 B. 7
- C. 5 D. 3

Ans. (B)

9. Why was Kisa Gotami sad?

- A. Her only son had died.
- B. her all property was snatched.
- C. she was beaten up.
- D. None of the Above

Ans. (A)

10. What did Kisa ask for to bring
her son back to life?

- A. Food B. Medicine
- C. Tea D. prayers

Ans. (B)

11. Where did Buddha preach his
first sermon?

- A. Haridwar B. Benares
- C. Chennai D. None

Ans. (B)

12. When was Budhha sent for
Schooling?

- A. At the age of eight
- B. At the age of ten
- C. At the age of twelve
- D. At the age of fourteen

Ans. (C)

13. Which seed did Buddha ask
Kisa to bring?

- A. Mustard seeds
- B. Pumpkin seeds
- C. Sesame seeds
- D. All of these

Ans. (A)

14. What was the condition imposed upon the source of the seeds?

- A. to be borrowed from a woman
- B. to be borrowed from a man
- C. both A and B
- D. none of the above

Ans. (D)

15. What did Kisa Gotami learn in the end?

- A. Love is common
- B. Death is common
- C. War is common
- D. None of the Above

Ans. (B)

VII. SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. What is a sermon? Is it different from a lecture or a talk?

Ans. A sermon is a 'spoken or written address on a religious or moral subject'. It is a serious talk. It is different from a lecture or a talk. It is because a lecture or a talk can be on anything. A sermon has to be on religion or a moral subject.

2. When and where did Siddhartha get enlightenment?

Ans. One day on his way to hunt, Siddhartha saw a very old and

sick man; the arrangement of a funeral and a monk looking for alms in pain. These sights so moved him that he at once went out into the world to seek enlightenment concerning the sorrows he had witnessed.

He wandered for seven years and finally sat down under a peepal tree, where he vowed to stay until he got enlightenment. After seven days he got enlightened.

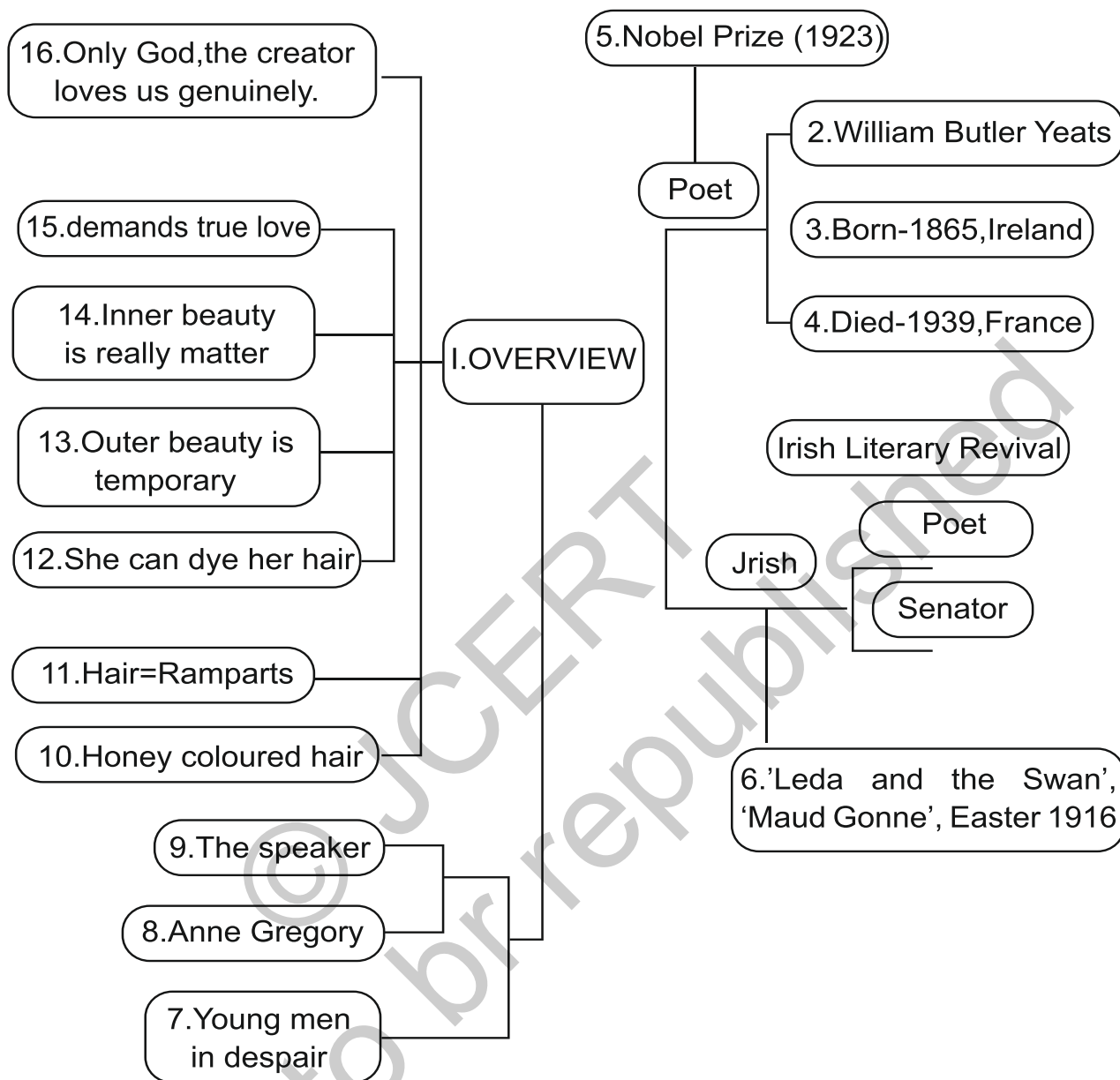
3. Why was Siddhartha known as the Buddha?

Ans. After wandering for seven years, Siddhartha finally sat down under a peepal tree, where he vowed to stay until he got enlightenment. He got enlightened after seven days and he renamed the tree the Bodhi Tree (Tree of Wisdom) and began to teach and to share his new understandings. At that point he became to be known as the Buddha (the Awakened or the Enlightened). The Buddha preached his first sermon at the city of Benares, most holy of the dipping places on the River Ganges.

4. When her son dies, Kisa Gotami goes from house to house. What does she ask for? Does she get it? Why not?

Ans. When Kisa Gotami's son died, she went from house to house, asking if she could get some

1.B. FOR ANNE GREGORY(POEM)



medicine that would cure her child.

No, she did not get it because her child was dead and no medicine could have brought him back to life.

5. How did Buddha teach Gotami the truth of life?

Ans. Buddha asked Kisa Gotami to bring a handful of mustard seeds from a house where no one had lost a dear one to death. He wanted to make Gotami learn the inevitability of death from her own experience. Buddha knew that Gotami would learn this through her experience and not through his words.

VII. LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTION

1. What message did Buddha's first sermon at Benares give?

Ans. Buddha's first sermon at Benares reflects the Buddha's wisdom about one inscrutable kind of suffering. It taught the world that death is inevitable and surrendering all selfishness can lead one to the path of immortality. It also taught that in order to obtain peace of mind, one will have to draw out the arrow of complaint, grief and lamentation. Such a person would become composed, would overcome all sorrow and be blessed.

I. WORD MEANINGS

- | | |
|---------------|-----------|
| 1. Thrown- | फेंक दिया |
| 2. Despair- | निराशा |
| 3. Honey- | शहद |
| 4. Ramparts- | प्राचीर |
| 5. Dye hair- | बाल रंगना |
| 6. Brown- | भूरा |
| 7. Carrot- | गाजर |
| 8. Despair- | निराशा |
| 9. Religious- | धार्मिक |

II. IMPORTANT NOTE

Ramparts- The surrounding embankment of a fort, often including any walls, parapets, walks, etc, that are built on the bank.



III. CHARACTERS

1. The speakers- The poem is in the form of dialogues. Therefore, there are two speakers. The first one we can assume as the poet or anyone related to Anne - her friend, her lover or any person she knows.

2. Anne Gregory- The poem on whom the poem is addressed. She is a beautiful woman with honey-coloured hairs. Later from her conversation with the speaker we come to know that she is not only beautiful from the outside but she possesses a beautiful soul also.

3. Young men in despair- The lovers of Anne Gregory who are attracted by her beautiful appearance. They fall into despair as their lady love Anne Gregory does not accept their love.

IV. SUMMARY OF THE POEM

William Butler Yeats wrote many love poems. 'For Anne Gregory' is one of the best and most beautiful poems by him. Through this poem, the poet tells us that the beauty of a person is not his or her physical appearance but the soul.

At the beginning of the poem, the poet tells us about a beautiful young woman named Anne Gregory who has very beautiful golden hairs. He praises her honey coloured hairs but also compares them to some 'ramparts' or castles. Just as castles are protected with impregnable boundary walls, Anne Gregory's inner qualities are hidden under that shed of golden hairs which makes impossible for anyone to recognize her true beauty. So, the poet urges her not to reject the young man who confesses his love to her just because he is attracted by her beautiful appearance.

In the second stanza the lady, Anne Gregory replies that she doesn't want someone to love her for external beauty only. As for her beautiful hair, she says that she can change it anytime from golden to brown, black or orange. By this, she actually means that her outer beauty is temporary and changeable. So, what really matter is her heart or more specifically the soul where her actual qualities lies. She does not want to attract anyone by her inner beauty but by her heart. This shows how a beautiful girl wants someone to love her based on her inner feelings and her soul instead of her lovely yellow hair or her body. She wants real love. So, one who wants to love her must love her by feeling her inner beauty.

In the third stanza, the poet says that he knows a great pious man who believes that only God can understand the inner beauty in human beings. It is God who loves all human beings as

he has created us and we are all His children. His love for us his unselfish, hence true. A worldly person always judges people by outer beauty. So we should not expect any person to understand and love us based on the beauty inside.

सारांश

विलियम बटलर येट्स ने प्रेम के ऊपर कई कविताएँ लिखे हैं। 'ऐनी ग्रेगरी के लिए' उनकी सबसे अच्छी और सबसे खूबसूरत कविताओं में से एक है। इस कविता में, कवि चाहते हैं कि किसी व्यक्ति की सुंदरता उसकी शारीरिक बनावट नहीं बल्कि आत्मा होनी चाहिए।

कविता की शुरुआत में, कवि हमें ऐनी ग्रेगरी नाम की एक खूबसूरत युवती के बारे में बताते हैं, जिसके बहुत सुंदर सुनहरे बाल हैं। वह उसके शहद के रंग के बालों की प्रशंसा करते हैं, लेकिन उसकी तुलना कुछ 'प्राचीर' या महल से भी करते हैं। जिस तरह महल अभेद्य चारदीवारी से सुरक्षित रहता है, ऐनी ग्रेगरी के आंतरिक गुण सुनहरे बालों के उस शेड के नीचे छिपे हुए हैं, जो किसी के लिए भी उसकी असली सुंदरता को पहचानना असंभव बना देता है। इसलिए जो भी उससे प्रेम निवेदन करता है उसके बाहरी सौंदर्य से आकर्षित होकर ही करता है। लेकिन ऐनी ग्रेगरी उसे ठुकरा के उसको निराश कर देती है जो कवि को सही प्रतीत नहीं होता है।

दूसरे छंद में ऐनी ग्रेगरी जवाब देती है कि वह नहीं चाहती कि कोई उसे केवल बाहरी सुंदरता के लिए प्यार करे। उसके सुंदर बालों के लिए, वह कहती है कि वह इसे सुनहरे से भूरे, काले या नारंगी रंग में कभी भी बदल सकती है। जिसका मतलब यह है की उसकी बाहरी सुंदरता अस्थायी और परिवर्तनशील

है। तो, उसका दिल या विशेष रूप से आत्मा, जहां उसके वास्तविक गुण हैं, वह वास्तव में मायने रखती है। वह किसी को अपनी आंतरिक सुंदरता से नहीं बल्कि अपने दिल से आकर्षित करना चाहती है। इससे पता चलता है कि कैसे एक खूबसूरत लड़की चाहती है कि कोई उसके प्यारे सुनहरी बालों या उसके शरीर के बजाय उसकी आंतरिक भावनाओं और उसकी आत्मा के आधार पर उससे प्यार करे। वह सच्चा प्यार चाहती है। इसलिए, जो उससे प्यार करना चाहता है, उसे उसकी आंतरिक सुंदरता को महसूस करके उसको प्यार करना चाहिए।

तीसरे श्लोक में कवि कहते हैं कि वह एक महान धर्मपरायण व्यक्ति को जानते हैं जो मानता है कि केवल ईश्वर ही मनुष्य की सुंदरता को समझ सकते हैं। यह ईश्वर है जो सभी मनुष्यों से प्यार करते हैं क्योंकि उन्होंने ही हमें बनाये हैं और हम सभी उनके बच्चे हैं। इसलिए उनका प्यार भी सच है। एक सांसारिक व्यक्ति हमेशा बाहरी सुंदरता से लोगों का जांच करता है। इसलिए हमें किसी भी व्यक्ति से यह उम्मीद नहीं करनी चाहिए कि वह हमें अंदर की सुंदरता के आधार पर समझे और प्यार करे।

V. OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Who is the poet of the poem?

- A. W.B. Yeats
- B. John Keats
- C. John Milton
- D. Wordsworth

Ans. (A)

2. The poem is addressed to -

- A. Leda
- B. Anne gregory
- C. Cynthia
- D. none

Ans. (B)

3. What is the colour of Anne Gregory's hair?

- A. Brown
- B. black
- C. Orange
- D. Honey-coloured

Ans. (D)

4. Poet Urges Anne to not throw a young man into-

- A. Happiness
- B. Danger
- C. Despair
- D. None

Ans. (C)

5. Anne's honey-coloured hair is compared to-

- A. Wires
- B. Butterflies
- C. Ramparts
- D. none

Ans. (C)

6. Anne can change her hair by

- A. Plastic Surgery
- B. Magic
- C. Medicines
- D. Hair-dye

Ans. (D)

7. Why does she want to dye her hair?

- A. So that young men may not like her brown hair.
- B. So that young men may not like her green hair.
- C. So that young men may not like her yellow hair.
- D. So that the young man can understand that her outer beauty is temporary and love her actual beauty

Ans. (D)

8. What kind of love Anne want From her lover

- A. Genuine
- B. False
- C. Both A and B
- D. None

Ans. (A)

9. What does the girl think she can do to get rid of lovers?

- A. cut her hair
- B. dye her hair
- C. cover her hair
- D. all of them

Ans. (B)

10. Who says that only God can understand the inner beauty in human beings?

- A. A young man in despair
- B. An Old man in love
- C. An old religious man
- D. None of the above

Ans. (C)

VI. SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. To whom is the first stanza of the poem addressed? What does the speaker say to her?

Ans. The first stanza of the poem is addressed to a lady named Anne Gregory. She had a great influence on the poet. He had great respect for her. He tells her that although she is a noble lady, yet nobody would love her for herself alone.

2. Why does the poet compare Anne Gregory's hair with ramparts?

Ans. Anne Gregory has very beautiful golden hairs. The poet praises her honey coloured hairs but also compares them to some 'ramparts' or castles. Just as castles are protected with impregnable boundary walls, Anne Gregory's inner qualities are hidden under that shed of golden hairs which makes it impossible for anyone to recognize her true beauty.

3. Why can only God love Anne for herself alone?

Ans. According to an old religious man mentioned in the poem only God can understand the inner beauty in human beings. It is God who loves all human beings as he has created us and we are all His children. His love for us is unselfish, hence true. A worldly person always judges people by outer beauty. So if Anne wants to get true love from someone, she will only get from God.

4. Why does Gregory want to change the colour of her hair?

Ans. In the second stanza the young woman Anne Gregory says that she can change hair anytime from golden to brown, black or orange. By this, she actually means that her outer beauty is temporary and changeable. So, what really matters is her heart or more specifically the soul where her actual qualities lie. She does not want to attract anyone by her inner beauty but by her heart. She wants real love.