

5/7/23

POEM - 2

KEEPING QUIET

- Pablo Neruda

★ ABOUT THE POEM

In this poem, Pablo talks about the necessity of quiet introspection and creating a feeling of mutual understanding among human beings. Stillness and silence will help men in creating these feelings. The length of the lines differs in different stanzas. Moreover, there is a shift in thought as we move stanza to stanza.

★ EXTRACTS

- Now we will arms so much.

Q1) Why does the poet ask us to count to twelve?

Ans. There are only twelve sign on the clock to measure hours. Therefore, the poet ask us to count till the clock measure these hours.

Q2) Why does the poet ask us to keep still?

Ans. Too much activity and rush has only brought misfortunes ~~has~~ to mankind.

Q3) What is the message of the poet in the above stanza?

Ans. The poet wants us to create a feeling of mutual understanding among ourselves.

Q4) 'Let's not ~~talk~~ speak in any language' Why does the poet say that?

Ans. The people of the world has been involving in war and blood sheds on minor excuses. If they keep quiet ^{will} ensure peace and prosperity.

Q5.) What should we not do for a second?

Ans. We should ~~stop~~^{cease} all activities for a second.
Therefore, let them not move their arms as to harm others.

(ii) It would be sudden strangeness.

Q1.) What will happen if there is no rush or running of engines?

Ans. There will be peace all around.

Q2.) How would all of us be at that moment?

Ans. There will be a beautiful ^{and pure} moment.

(iii) Fisherman in the hurt hands.

Q1.) What is fisherman symbolic of?

Ans. The fisherman symbolises man's indiscriminate exploitation of nature for his needs.

Q2.) What has happened to the man gathering salt? What must he do?

Ans. The man gathering salt has injured his hands. He must take care of his hurt hands and should ~~not~~ realize that his actions are self-destructive.

(iv) Those who prepare doing nothing.

Q1.) What sort of wars are mentioned in the above lines?

Ans. Green wars, wars with poisonous gases and wars with the fire.

Q2.) What kind of victory will it be?

Ans. It will be a victory where no survivors will be left to celebrate it. Such a victory will be meaningless.

Q3) Now should the lovers of war behave?

Ans. They should put on clean clothes and work with their brothers under the trees doing nothing.

(v) What I want _____ with death.

Q1) What does the poet want what should it not be confused with?

Ans. The poet is requesting for silence or stillness. Stillness should not be confused with total inactivity.

Q2) Explain 'I want to no truck with death'.

Ans. Total inactivity brings death. The poet refuses to associate with death.

Q3) When can a huge silence do us good?

Ans. A huge silence can do us a lot of good when we're disappointed, not understanding ourselves or threatening ourselves with death.

vi) Perhaps the Earth _____ I will go.

Q1) What does the Earth teach us?

Ans. The Earth teaches us how fresh life springs from the remains of death.

Q2) What is the significance of keeping quiet?

Ans. Keeping quiet brings peace and harmony to this uneasy and turbilliant world.

Q3.) What remains alive when everything seems dead?

Ans. Only the Earth remains alive when everything seems dead.

★ QUESTION-ANSWERS

Q1.) What will counting upto twelve and keeping still help us achieve?

Ans. Counting up to twelve only takes a moment. When we pause and stay still, we can think about our actions. Rushing often leads to problems, and anger causes violence. So, being calm brings peace, and taking a moment to reflect helps us avoid unnecessary troubles.

Q2.) Do you think the poet advocates total inactivity and death?

Ans. ~~Yes~~ No, he doesn't promote inactivity or death. He defines 'stillness' as stopping harmful human actions, not total inactivity. He opposes death and advocates for a pause in hostile activities.

Q3.) What is the 'sadness' that the poet refers to in the poem?

Ans. Man's sadness arises from his actions and thoughts. Ironically, though he understands much, he often fails to understand himself. Rash actions lead to harm and disaster. Man's self-destructive thoughts and actions create tragedies in his life.

Q4.) What symbol from Nature does the poet invoke to say that there can be life under apparent stillness?

Ans. Using the Earth as a symbol, he shows that nature is always active, sustaining life even when it seems dormant. This is beautifully captured in the lines: "as when everything seems dead and later proves to be alive."