

23104120 ENGLISH CORE 'B' [ALTERNATIVE ENG.]
MODEL QUESTION PAPER - SET II

CHAP. - 02 THE GIFTS OF GOD

ABOUT THE POET - George Herbert was born at Montgomery on 3rd April 1593. His father was the Sheriff. His mother was a lady of remarkable character. He became Rector of Bemerton in 1630. He did countless deeds of charity at Bemerton. He wrote many religious poems here. He became victim of tuberculosis at Cambridge and died in his fortieth year in 1633. After his death a collection of 129 religious poems 'The Temple' was published. "The Gifts of God" the present poem was also one of them.

SUMMARY :- In this poem God first showers his blessing on Man. He bestows on him all earthly joys. He withheld one gift of rest and peace. The idea is that if man gets rest & peace along with other blessings, he will forget God. So, God holds back this blessing of rest and peace in his hand. ~~then~~

When God first created man, he had a glass full of blessings which he wanted to bestow upon his creation. He showered on man all the blessings in the form of strength, beauty, wisdom, honour, pleasure and the worldly riches, filling upon of his worldly life. When God had poured down all these blessings

on man, he noticed that at the bottom of the glass left the last blessing which was rest and peace or contentment. Then God thought that He should withhold this last jewel or gift, otherwise if man gets all the gifts from him, he would forget him. God withheld the last gift from man, so that the link between man and him is not snapped. So man was blessed in every way but deprived of rest.

OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS

17 George Herbert is a _____ poet.

Ans Devotional or religious

27 The other title of The Gifts of God is _____.

Ans The Pulley

37 The expression 'a glass of blessings' is a characteristic of :-

Ans Metaphysical poetry

47 What does God want to 'contract into a span'?

Ans The scattered riches of the ~~world~~ world.

57 Of all God's treasures which lay in the bottom-

Ans Rest.

67 This jewel in line 12th of the poem refers to

Ans Rest.

77) What ~~was~~ world's riches contracted into the span of man's life?

Ans Strength, beauty, wisdom, honour, pleasure

87) What would lead man to God?

Ans Weariness

97) God decided to pour all his gifts on man because

Ans He had created man.

107) God decided to give to man -

Ans all the world's riches

SHORT QUESTIONS

Q17) What did God think in respect of giving rest to man?

Ans God deprived man of his last gift. That was rest. It was at the bottom when God saw it, He made a stop. "He thought if he bestowed this gift on man, he would forget him and would enjoy all his life. So man left at rest would adore rest more than God."

Q27) "The Gifts of God" is a devotional poem. Do you agree?

Ans George Herbert's "The Gifts of God" is a devotional poem. It gives expression to the poet's religious experience. Man and God are so linked together that either will be unhappy if they are separated. Thus in this poem God says that

in case of man's forgetting God, 'both should
deserve be'

Q3) Why has 'The Gifts of God' been called a meta-
physical poem?

Ans Metaphysical poetry is a school of English
poetry that developed in the early part of
the 17th century. Like all other metaphysical
poems "The Gifts of God" develops the idea
logically. Herbert gives homely setting to
this Metaphysical poem.

Q4) What did God think in respect of giving
rest to man?

Ans God gives all gifts to man except rest or
peace. Peace is not given to man because it
is at the base of all other gifts. With peace
man would enjoy all God's gift to the full.
Thus he would think that these gifts have
come to him from nature in the normal
natural ways.

Q5) What was the purpose behind denying rest to
man?

Ans God and man are so inter-linked that one
cannot be happy after being separated from
the other. He has given him strength, beauty,
wisdom, honour, pleasure and such other gifts.
But he has not given him rest or peace that
lies at the very base of all other gifts. Without
rest or peace other blessings too cannot be fully
enjoyed.

LONG QUESTIONS

Q17 Write a brief critical appreciation of "The Gifts of God".

OR

Give a brief summary of "The Gift of God".

OR

Show your acquaintance with the poem "The Gifts of God".

OR

Show that you have read and appreciated the poem "The Gifts of God".

Ans The gifts of God is a devotional poem. It is composed by the famous metaphysical poet George Herbert. The idea behind the poem is religious. According to Saint Augustine God has created man for Himself. Man's soul can have rest only in God. The highest aim of life is to keep intact man's communication with God. Once this communication is broken the very purpose of creation is defeated.

George Herbert conveys this significant religious idea in the framework of metaphysical poetry. He uses striking analogies and logical & colloquial tone to convey his poetic vision. The setting is made homely. The poet visualises the time when God created man. In the typical metaphysical fashion the poet uses striking analogies. The key image is that of a glass full of blessings. This image is expanded to

some length: Strength, wisdom, beauty, honour and pleasure are pictured as liquids. They are poured on man. But rest also in the form of a liquid which is at the bottom of the glass is not poured on man.

The poem is marked by sustained visual touches. Picture after picture flash before our eyes. Even we see the riches of the universe contracting into the span of man's life. The conclusion is quoted above, is itself striking. The stanza ~~form~~ form is suitable for development of the theme. The atmosphere of loneliness is heightened by a conversational rhyme and tone. All in all, "The Gifts of God" is a fine lyric and we enjoy it very much.

Q27) Yet let him keep The rest
But keep them with repining restlessness.

[Explain the above lines.]

Ans These lines occur in the beginning of the last stanza of "The Gifts of God". They speak about God's strategy to keep man to himself. According to the religious view of life, man has no significance apart from God. Man and God are so interlinked that one can't be happy after losing the other. Thus if the communication between man and God is disrupted, the very purpose of creation would be defeated. God is conscious that this should not happen.



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He bestows on man strength, beauty, wisdom, honour, pleasure and such other gifts. These have been made out of riches and gems scattered all through the universe. At the base of all these gifts, however is rest. Without rest man cannot enjoy even the other gifts. So God withholds this gift from man.

Man possesses all other blessings. But in the absence of rest and peace he cannot be all happy. The innate restlessness that God has planted in man will prevent him from being arrogant and complacent. All other gifts are with him yet repining restlessness is also there. Thus even if goodness does not drive him to God, his restlessness will surely drive him to him. So the communication between man and God will be maintained and the purpose of creation will not be defeated.

X ————— X ————— X