Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**PRACTICE WORKSHEET ANSWERS (PSALM OF LIFE)**

1. Why does the poet say ‘Tell me not, in mournful numbers’ as spoken by the other people?

Ans. The poet says that he doesn’t want to hear the repeated saying that life is just an empty dream. This is usually spoken in mournful numbers also it is said that if a soul is slumbering it is dead and things are not what they seem. The poet does not want to believe in any of these things.

1. What is the ideal way of living according to the poet?

Ans. The poet says that neither enjoyment nor sorrow should be our destined end or way. We should act so that every next day finds us farther than the present day.

1. What is heart compared to in the poem?

Ans. . The beating of the heart is compared to muffled drum. Just as if the drum is covered up, its beating is barely audible similarly our heartbeat is barely audible because of our body it covers it up. Our hearts are called as stout and brave.

1. Cite the reason why does the poet asks us not to trust our future?

Ans. The poet says that one shouldn’t trust the future though it seems pleasant. The poet says so because neither should we lament the past nor take the future for granted. The poet wants us to only act in the present.

1. What is life compared to? Give a suitable reason why this comparison is made?

Ans. Life is compared to a main (ocean) in the second last stanza of the poem. The comparison is made because, just like a rough ocean where we have to face storms so it is with life. We go through ups and downs in life frequently.

1. How can we make our life sublime?

Ans. We can make our life sublime when we are leaving this world, we can leave the footprints on the sand of time. These are those footprints which can inspire posterity.

1. What advice does the poet give to the readers at the end of the poem?

Ans. In the last stanza of the poem, the poet tells us that we should be up and doing. We should actively participate in life and work hard to achieve success but we should be prepared for any fate. Even if we achieve things in life still we should continue the pursuit. After the labour sometimes the fruits of success get delayed. In such circumstances we should have patience.