

SECTION - I

NO. 102

Group - A.

* INTRODUCTION - 1.

1. Two Friends is a poem written by JALA-AL-DIN MUHAMMAD RUMI, a 13th century Persian mystic and poet, whose verse is permeated with Sufism, a movement of Islamic mysticism. Two Friends is actually a short extract from Masnavi-ye-Manavi, ^(spiritual complete, mind) arguably RUMI's magnum opus. It was his most well-known and widely-read publication, and had enormous influence on Islamic thought and literature. Like many of his other poems, Two Friends explores the themes of spiritual union and individualism. It explores how two different identities merge through spiritual awaken and talks about human spiritual relationships in the aspect.

* INTRODUCTION 2.

The Butterfly is a short poem written by the ancient Chinese poet CHUANG-TZE. He was a great writer, philosopher, thinker and proponent of Taoism in early-day China. His magnum opus, Chuang-tzu is considered to be one of the most definitive comprehensive texts available on Taoism. On the other hand, the poem The Butterfly has an inquisitive,

contemplative tone is it, in which the poet ponders about his experience of a dream, his different states of transition and finally, the question of reality. This poem addresses the twin themes of Reality vs. Illusion and ~~And~~ Dream state vs. Awakened state.

* TOPIC OF THE QUESTION

This brings us to the main topic behind the question. The two poems Two Friends and The Butterfly are indeed companion poems in the sense that both of them, in their own distinctive ways, ^{are} trying to explore possibilities of unity, but within a world of divided aims. The poem Two Friends, for instance, is structured as a parable, a poem with a moral, by using a total of 8 full stops and 2 question-marks to address the deep theme. Moreover, although it initially starts with a feeling of division of individuals: "Go away, there's no place for raw meat at this table" meaning that the two individuals are currently separated due to immaturity and a lack of understanding of the true depth of friendship. "Raw meat" is a metaphor for immaturity. In Two Friends, RUMI uses seemingly simple language to actually convey deep spiritual concepts and explanations.

10. think about possibilities of unity, Li
talks about « fire of separation » a great need
and « Hypocrisy » and « Ego », the twin failures
of individual human consciousness. However
the poem ends with unity being achieved
after separation, as in « Come in, myself. There
no place in this house for two » showing that the
two identities undergo a spiritual union and
share even food, the basic source of life and sustenance.
Hence within a world of divided aims, we see that
unity is being achieved.

In the poem The Butterfly, there is
a different approach ^{taken} by Chuang-Tze towards
exploring possibilities of unity. It starts with:
« Once upon a time, I, Chuang-Tze dreamt I was a butterfly
showing us a simple-toned and straightforward
topic on hand, which is a dream, or a state
of trance. The poet uses the symbol « butterfly »
to signify freedom in flight and its relationship
with human consciousness, again addressing the topic
of divided aims. The poet uses the words
« I was conscious of my fancies » as a butterfly and
reality as a human, showing the divided-in-aims
nature of the two creatures, a human, and a butterfly.

The poet brings to us the image that the two organisms are so different and so diverse in their appearance and outlook, yet a dream can bring them together as one. This is how the poet shows and explores possibilities of unity within a world of divided aims.

* CONCLUSION

To conclude, we see that both poems end by addressing the topic in an indirect way.

Unity is completely achieved, and unity vs. diversity is a central theme in Two Friends. In The Butterfly, the poet attempts to unify the two seemingly distinct individuals of the butterfly and the human by questioning the very reality of reality and by stating lack of clarity/confusion in possession of dreams. Hence the two poems confront a world of divided aims, yet manage to explore possibilities of unity.