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A Nation's Strength (Poem)

قوم کی طاقت (نظم)

| Words | Meanings | Words | Meanings | Words | Meanings |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|----------|------------|---------------------------|
| Honour | عزت | For the sake of | کی خاطر | Stand fast | ڈٹ جانا |
| Suffer long | عرصہ دراز تک ٹکائیں برداشت کرنا | Pillars | ستون | Dare | جرات کرنا / جرات حوصلہ |
| Fly | پرواز کرنا، راہ فرار اختیار کرنا | | | | |

Stanza 1

Not gold, but only men can make,
A people great and strong.
Men who, for truth and honour's sake,
Stand fast and suffer long.

سوںے (دولت) کی وجہ سے قوم عظیم اور طاقتور نہیں ہوتی بلکہ لوگ قوم کو عظیم بناتے ہیں ایسی قوم کے لوگ سچائی اور عزت کی خاطر استقامت اختیار کرتے ہوئے دکھ برداشت کرتے ہیں۔

Reference:

These lines have been taken from the poem "A Nation's Strength" composed by R.W. Emerson.

Context:

The poet says that wealth does not make a nation great and strong. The real strength of a nation lies in the men who fight for the cause of their nation.

Paraphrase:

In these lines, the poet says that riches and gold do not make a nation strong. It is the men who make a nation strong. These men fight for the cause of honour and truth. They remain steadfast in their aim and face difficulties for the achievement of their goal.

Stanza No. 2

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Brave men who work while others sleep,
Who dare while others fly,
They build a nation's pillars deep,
And lift them to the sky.

ایسی قوم کے لوگ بہادر ہوتے ہیں جو محنت کرتے ہیں جبکہ دوسرے لوگ آرام کرتے ہیں۔ وہ حالات کا بہادری سے مقابلہ کرتے ہیں جبکہ دوسرے لوگ راہ فرار اختیار کرتے ہیں۔ ایسے لوگ قوم کی عمارت کے ستون ہوتے ہیں جو قوم کو بلند یوں پر پہنچاتے ہیں۔

Reference:

These lines have been taken from the poem "A Nation's Strength" composed by R.W. Emerson.

Context:

The poet says that wealth does not make a nation great and strong. The real strength of a nation lies in the men who fight for the cause of their nation.

Paraphrase:

In these lines, the poet describes the qualities of brave men who fight for the cause of their nation. They face the dangers confronting their nation while cowards fly away. These brave persons build the foundation of a nation very deep and lift them to the heights of glory with their untiring efforts.

EXERCISES

Answer the following questions.

i. Write in your own words the main idea of the poem.

Main Idea

According to the poet, wealth cannot make a nation great and strong. The foundation stone of a nation is its men, who are brave, hardworking, truthful and steadfast. Their noble deeds build the pillars of a nation strong and lift them to the sky.

ii. Write a paragraph on "Character of a Brave Man". Use these adjectives to describe the character: **brave, truthful, steadfast, honourable, hardworking, strong, great.**

A brave man is the one who has courage to face difficulties without showing any fear. He has moral strength as well. He does not lose heart while facing or suffering pain. He can endure any danger. Brave men are hardworking, honourable, great and truthful. They speak the truth and remain steadfast in all circumstances. Brave men possess strong will-power and are respected by the people.

Write down the rhyming words used in the poem.

Example: make, sake
strong, long
sleep, deep
fly, sky

Add two more rhyming words in each line.

- gold, Bold, Sold,
- stand, Band, Land.
- dare, pair, mare.

Write down the nouns and verbs used in the poem.

Noun : Gold, Men, People, Truth, Pillars, Sky.

Verb: Make, Stand, Suffer, Work, Sleep, Dare, Fly, Build, Lift.

Fill in the missing letters.

- H_nour
- Pill_rs
- D_ep
- Li_t
- D_re

Match the word similar in meaning in List 'A' with 'B' and write the answer in 'C'.

| | List 'A' | List 'B' | List 'C' |
|-------|------------|--------------|----------|
| (i) | honour | foundation | |
| (ii) | stand fast | self-respect | |
| (iii) | Fly | show courage | |
| (iv) | dare | stand firmly | |
| (v) | pillars | run in fear | |

Summary

(Ralph Waldo Emerson)

This simple and inspiring (روح پرور) poem seems to be a national anthem (قومی ترانہ) for all nations on the surface of earth. Emerson wants to arise the passion of patriotism (حب الوطنی) among the young generation (نوجوان نسل). He reveals (واضح کرتا) to us a great secret behind the greatness of a nation.

The poet makes us realize that accumulation (جمع کرنا) of wealth and piles (ڈھیر) of gold and silver do not make a nation great. The greatness of a nation lies in its men. These men uphold the cause of truth and honour. These men sacrifice their (قربان کرنا) personal interests for larger national interests (قومی مفادات). They fight bravely and face hardships (مشکلات) steadfastly (استقامت کے ساتھ) while others try to retreat (پسپا ہونا) and flee (فرار ہو جانا). They work hard while others are lost in deep slumber (خواب غفلت). Such men, being very honest, brave, courageous (باہمت), and steadfast (ثابت قدم) lay firm foundations of a nation and then take the nation to the heights of glory and grandeur (شان و شوکت). Such men are very rare (کمیاب-نایاب) in this materialistic (مادہ پرست) age. They should be honoured, respected, adorned (سلا کرنا) and encouraged.

Use the following words in your own sentences.

| Words | Meanings | Sentences |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Honour | عزت | We should work hard in a true spirit for the honour of our country. |
| Stand fast | ڈٹ جانا | They stood fast with their point of view. |
| Pillars | ستون | There are five pillars of Islam. Tauheed is one of the pillars of Islam. |
| Fly | پرواز کرنا، راہ فرار اختیار کرنا | The birds were flying in the sky even in the windy atmosphere. |
| Sake | کے لیے | For God's sake, do not waste your precious time. |
| Suffer long | عرصہ دراز تک تکلیفیں برداشت کرنا | He suffered long during his struggle for freedom. |
| Dare | جرات کرنا | The students do not dare to go to the Principal for their complaints. |

Answers

Missing Letters.

- i. o ii. a iii. e iv. f v. a

Match List 'C'.

- i. self-respect ii. stand firmly iii. run in fear iv. show courage
v. foundation