

Poem
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Love — an Essence of All Religions

Jalal-ud-Din Rumi (Translated by Dr. Nicholson)

Words and Expressions

essence	—	core; crux; spirit	خلاصہ، نچوڑ۔ روح
stake	—	scaffold; a wooden post to which a person was tied before being put to death	سولی، تختہ دار
throne	—	chair of monarch	تخت شاہی
fortune	—	luck	قسمت
pleasing	—	soothing	خوشگوار، فرحت بخش
wrath	—	anger; rage; fury	قہر۔ غضب

Multiple Choice Questions

Choose the correct synonym.

- Love — an **essence** of all religions.
A) core B) part
C) mission D) knowledge
- Through love **vinegar** becomes sweet wine.
A) wine B) a sour drink
C) barley D) nectar
- Through love vinegar becomes **sweet wine**.
A) sweet drink B) acidic liquor
C) natural drink D) grape juice
- Through love the **stake** becomes a throne.
A) court B) subjugation
C) scaffold D) cave
- Through love **misfortune** becomes good fortune.
A) grief B) misconception
C) misdeed D) bad luck
- Through love **grief** becomes a joy.
A) hatred B) sorrow
C) luck D) difficulty
- Through love lions become **harmless**.
A) tame B) dangerous
C) careless D) natural
- Through love **wrath** seems to be a mercy.
A) anger B) repose
C) conflict D) ailment
- Through love wrath seems to be a **mercy**.
A) sickness
B) indignation
C) kindness
D) compulsion
- Through love the dead **rise to life**.
A) pass away B) become alive
C) wish to live D) prosper in life

Answers

1.	A	3.	A	5.	D	7.	A	9.	C
2.	B	4.	C	6.	B	8.	A	10.	B

Questions and Answers

Q.1 Why does the poet put emphasis on love?

OR

What is the central idea of "Love – an Essence of All Religions"?

Ans. Love is the basic principle at work in the universe. God is the fountainhead of love; it is a divine virtue. Love is the real spirit of all religions. It is a vital force in human affairs. It is love that makes life worth-living.

Q.2 What is the effect of love?

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Ans. Love has great power. It is love that changes thorns into roses, vinegar into sweet wine, bad luck into good luck, burning fire into a pleasing sight and grief into joy. It can tame the wild and ferocious emotions of cruelty, hatred and intolerance.

Q.3 Is life worth living without love?

Ans. Love is the basic reality of life. Life is meaningless without love. Without love, life is a journey through an arid and waterless desert with no oasis in sight. Without love, life is a pointless activity. It is love that inspires us to a higher level of thinking.

Q.4 What is your understanding of the line: "Through love the king becomes a slave"? 11636014

Ans. Kings are usually known to be despotic and authoritative but love has its miracles. It means through love, the king becomes as humble as a slave. He does not think of himself as a ruler. Love makes him kind-hearted, generous and benevolent.

Q.5 Who is the author of the poem "Love – an Essence of All Religions"?

Ans. "Love – an Essence of All Religions" has been written by Jalal-ud-Din Rumi.

Explanation with Reference to the Context

Stanza 1:

Through love thorns become roses, and
Through love vinegar becomes sweet wine,
Through love the stake becomes a throne,
Through love misfortune becomes good fortune.

Reference:

These lines have been taken from the poem "Love – an Essence of All Religions" written by Jalal-ud-Din Rumi and translated by Dr. Nicholson.

Context:

Love is the basic principle at work in the universe. God is the fountainhead of love; it is a divine virtue. Love is the real spirit of all religions. It is a vital force in human affairs. It is love that makes life worth-living.

Explanation:

Religions may differ in theory and practice. But their moral outlook is the same. All religions condemn bitterness in life and attitude. Love changes for the better. It can change thorns into sweet roses. The power of love turns bitterness into sweetness. It can change the death-post into a throne. It can change adversity into prosperity and success. Many renowned religious icons stood for love, kindness and mercy and spread the message of compassion and universal brotherhood.

Stanza 2:

Through love burning fire becomes pleasing light,
 Through love stone becomes soft as butter,
 Through love grief becomes a joy,
 Through love lions become harmless.

Reference:

These lines have been taken from the poem "Love – an Essence of All Religions" written by Jalal-ud-Din Rumi and translated by Dr. Nicholson.

Context:

Love is the basic principle at work in the universe. God is the fountainhead of love; it is a divine virtue. Love is the real spirit of all religions. It is a vital force in human affairs. It is love that makes life worth-living.

Explanation:

These lines highlight the miraculous power of love. There is an allusion to Hazrat Ibrahim (A.S) who jumped into burning fire for the love of God. God rewarded his love by turning the fire into a situation of ease and comfort. Love is a powerful force which can soften the stone-hearted people and make them kind, and merciful. Sorrows and pains are changed into happiness due to love. Moreover, love has a taming effect. The power of love can tame fierce lions into harmless creatures. It can turn foes into friends.

Stanza 3:

Through love sickness becomes health,
 Through love wrath seems to be a mercy,
 Through love the dead rise to life,
 Through love the king becomes a slave.

Reference:

These lines have been taken from the poem "Love – an Essence of All Religions" written by Jalal-ud-Din Rumi and translated by Dr. Nicholson.

Context:

Love is the basic principle at work in the universe. God is the fountainhead of love; it is a divine virtue. Love is the real spirit of all religions. It is a vital force in human affairs. It is love that makes life worth-living.

Explanation:

The poet is of the view that love is a great force and the greatest of all passions. Love is a power that changes disease and sickness into health. So it has a healing power. The poet alludes to Jesus Christ who stood for love and mercy and God granted him power to cure the sick, and bring the dead back to life. In the same way, love changes the anger of a person into kindness. Love inspires everyone and makes others civil and kind. Thus it can make a cruel and proud king as humble as a slave.