

Poem
08

Ozymandias

(P. B. Shelley)

Words and Expressions

antique	—	old; ancient	قدیم
trunkless	—	without upper part of body	بغیر دھڑ کے
sunk	—	buried, covered	دھنسا ہوا
shattered	—	broken; exhausted	خستہ حال
visage	—	face; countenance	چہرہ
frown	—	scowl	ناگواری کا تاثر۔ تیوری
wrinkle	—	line; furrow	شکن، جھری
sneer	—	contempt; scorn; contemptuousness	حقارت
sculptor	—	artist who makes sculptures	سنگتراش
passions	—	emotions; feelings	جذبات
survive	—	remain; stay alive; persist	زندہ رہنا۔ باقی رہنا
stamp	—	imprint; impress; carve	نقش کرنا۔ ثبت کرنا
pedestal	—	base; support; foot	پایہ یا کرسی
ye	—	you	تم۔ اے (قدیم استعمال)
decay	—	deterioration; disintegration; decline	ٹوٹ پھوٹ۔ گراؤ، خستہ حالی
colossal	—	huge; enormous; gigantic	بہت بڑا
wreck	—	ruins; something in a damaged or dilapidated condition	کوئی تباہ حال چیز
boundless	—	unlimited; endless	بے کنار، لامحدود
lone	—	solitary; isolated; desolate	ویران، سوتا
stretch	—	spread; extend	پھیلنا

Multiple Choice Questions

Choose the correct synonym.

- I met a traveller from an **antique** land.
A) historical B) far off
C) ancient D) marvellous
- Two **vast** and trunkless legs of stone.
A) huge B) wide
C) varied D) weary
- Two vast and **trunkless** legs of stone. 11626003
A) branchless B) without legs
C) without arms D) without torso
- Half **sunk**, a shattered visage lies, whose frown.
A) buried B) broken
C) seeming D) settled
- Half sunk, a **shattered** visage lies, whose frown. (Board 2010)
A) authoritative B) angry
C) shrunken D) broken

6. Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown...
A) pedestal B) image
C) face D) body
7. half sunk, shattered visage lies, whose frown...
A) features B) posture
C) expression D) scowl
8. And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command.
A) lifeless B) opened
C) rounded D) lined
9. And wrinkled lip and sneer of cold command.
A) contempt B) authority
C) movement D) expression
10. And wrinkled lip and sneer of cold command.
A) unsympathetic B) ineffective
C) royal D) lenient
11. And wrinkled lip and sneer of cold command.
A) suggestion B) authority
C) law D) impression
12. Tell that its sculptor well those passions read.
A) surveyor B) reporter
C) observer D) artist
13. Tell that its sculptor well those passions read.
A) observations B) pangs
C) feelings D) thoughts
14. Tell that its sculptor well those passions read.
A) approved B) observed
C) analyzed D) denounced
15. Which yet survive stamped on these lifeless things.
A) repeat B) remain
C) struggle D) speak
16. Which yet survive stamped on these lifeless things.
A) commanded B) imprinted
C) faded D) curved
17. The hand that mocked them and the heart that fed.
A) countered B) ridiculed
C) copied D) gestured
18. And on the pedestal these words appear.
A) brow B) base
C) stone D) visage
19. Look on my work, ye Mighty, and despair.
A) disappointed B) excited
C) decay D) elated
20. Nothing beside remains round the decay.
A) base B) deterioration
C) visage D) sculpture
21. Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare.
A) diminutive B) huge
C) stony D) shattered
22. Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare.
A) desert B) torso
C) ruin D) parts
23. Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare.
A) shattered B) unlimited
C) loose D) undefined
24. Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare...
A) basic B) lofty
C) barren D) shrouded
25. The lone and level sands stretch far away.
A) trackless B) trivial
C) desolate D) luminous
26. The lone and level sands stretch far away.
A) pile up B) dry up
C) spread D) grab

Answers

1. C	5. D	9. A	13. C	17. C	21. B	25. C
2. A	6. C	10. A	14. B	18. B	22. C	26. C
3. D	7. D	11. B	15. B	19. A	23. B	
4. A	8. D	12. D	16. B	20. B	24. C	

Questions and Answers

- Q.1** What did the traveller see in the desert? (Board 2015)
Ans. The traveller saw two vast legs of stone in the desert. Near them there was a shattered visage, half-sunk in the sand. There was nothing around except sand.
- Q.2** What expressions were stamped on the shattered visage of Ozymandias?
Ans. There were expressions of pride, vanity and contempt for others. They suggested the proud, vain, and authoritative nature of King Ozymandias.
- Q.3** What kind of feelings does the poet create in the minds of the reader?
Ans. The poet creates the feelings of pride about the greatness and grandeur of Ozymandias. But these feelings soon vanish and the reader feels pity and fear for the fall of Ozymandias. It says that the worldly glory and success are a nine days' wonder.
- Q.4** What lesson do we learn from the poem "Ozymandias"?

OR

- What is the theme of "Ozymandias"?** (Board 2007, 08, 10)
Ans. "Ozymandias" is an ironical poem. It says that man is mortal and worldly success is an illusion. Time is the greatest leveller and death brings an end to all claims of superiority. Death does not respect worldly ranks. It brings the duke and the dustman to the same level.
- Q.5** How does Shelley praise the sculptor in "Ozymandias"?
Ans. Shelley praises the sculptor for the way he observed the expressions on the king's face and then imprinted them on the lifeless stone. The poet praises the artist for his superb art.
- Q.6** Who is the author of the poem "Ozymandias"?
Ans. P. B. Shelley is the author of the poem "Ozymandias".
- Q.7** Give a short character sketch of Ozymandias. (Board 2015)
Ans. The colossal size of his statue and the sneer of cold command suggest that Ozymandias was proud, arrogant, and disdainful king who wanted his legend to live forever. The inscription on the pedestal tells the onlookers to get impressed by the Pharaoh's power and accomplishments.
- Q.8** What were the words written on the pedestal? (Board 2018)
Ans. The inscription read: My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:
 Look on my works, ye mighty and despair!
 The statement shows how arrogant, pontifical and introvert the king had been. He held everyone in great contempt.
- Q.9** What do the words inscribed on the pedestal tell us?
Ans. The inscription reveals cosmic irony. The king made high claims about himself. Ozymandias, the king of kings, whose achievements are unsurpassed, now stands alone in the desert. He who was once escorted by a number of slaves and guards, is surrounded by desolation and barrenness today.
- Q.10** What was the condition of the statue in the poem "Ozymandias"? (Lahore Board 2019)
Ans. The gigantic statue was mostly in ruins. It could not survive the ravages of time. The trunk had broken off the legs. The shattered visage lay buried in sand close to the trunkless legs. The pharaoh's greatness was now just a "colossal wreck".

Explanation with Reference to the Context

Stanza 1:

I met a traveller from an antique land
 Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
 Stand in the desert ... Near them, on the sand,
 Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
 And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command...

Reference:

These lines have been taken from the sonnet "Ozymandias" by P.B. Shelley.

Context:

"Ozymandias" is an ironical poem. The reference is made to the Egyptian pharaoh Ramses II. We learn that even the mighty and the powerful cannot escape the ravages of time. Time is the

greatest leveller and death brings an end to all claims of superiority in man. His statue bears more a lesson for the people than his glory.

Explanation:

There comes a traveller from an antique land who tells the poet that he has seen two enormous legs with no torso in the vast desert. There is a dejection of extreme nature. The face is also lying beside the legs and it has a horrible and shattered look. There are wrinkles on the lips and anger on the face. The king happened to be full of contempt and arrogance. The frown and sneer of cold command speak volumes of his dislike and hatred toward others. But time has also mocked him by reducing his vainglory to nothingness. His statue presents a dismal picture of 'pride that hath a fall'.

Stanza 2:

Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed:
And on the pedestal these words appear:
'My name is Ozymandias, king of kings.'

Reference:

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Context:

"Ozymandias" is an ironical poem. The reference is made to the Egyptian pharaoh Ramses II. We learn that even the mighty and the powerful cannot escape the ravages of time. Time is the greatest leveller and death brings an end to all claims of superiority in man. His statue bears more a lesson for the people than his glory.

Explanation:

These lines throw light on the sculptor instead of the sculpture. Shelley also believes like John Keats that life is short and art is long. Here Shelley admires those hands which carved the sculpture of the old king. The sculptor engraved in stone more of his heart than his face. Centuries have passed, both the king and the sculptor have long been dead and lost but the artistic expressions of cruelty and hard-heartedness survive to the present day. The sculpture still keeps him alive. Here art has been considered a source of eternity. Life may come to an end but it is through art that it can last long. In the end, we should accept that nothing is immortal. Even art is to perish someday.

Stanza 3:

'Look on my works, ye Mighty and despair!
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away.'

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Explanation:

Ozymandias, an ancient king from Egypt, had conquered great lands and achieved great victories. He made unprecedented territorial expansions and was proud of his exploits. He thought that nobody could rival him. He was proud of his achievements and believed his achievement would cause everyone to blush. But he forgot one very important rule of nature: change is the only constant in the universe. So now, his mighty work, which Ozymandias believed to be everlasting and immortal, was no more than ruins. There is no evidence of his greatness in the vicinity of his giant, broken statue. The king's cities, empire, and power have all disappeared over time. Around the colossal statue, only vast areas of sand stretch far away.