

Poem 12

Ruba'iyat

(Allama Muhammad Iqbal)

Words and Expressions

captivate	–	fascinate; attract; charm
blend	–	mix up; mingle; unify
harmony	–	unity; agreement; accord; concord
concord	–	harmony; agreement; unity
depart	–	disappear; leave a place; set off
ranks	–	unity; people in a group or category
perplexed	–	puzzled; confused; confounded
cold	–	spiritless; passionless

لُجھانا، مسحور کرنا
ملنا، مربوط ہونا، ہم آہنگ ہونا
ہم آہنگی۔ اتحاد
ہم آہنگی۔ آشتی
رخصت ہونا
صفیں
تذبذب، کشمکش یا الجھن میں
بے روح

Multiple Choice Questions

Choose the correct synonym.

- Faith is like Abraham at the **stake**.
A) conviction B) strength
C) scaffold D) concord
- You whom this age's way so **captivate**!
A) disturb B) challenge
C) fascinate D) deceive
- To have no faith is worse than **slavery**.
A) subjugation B) authority
C) imitation D) compliance
- Music of strange lands with Islam's **fire** blends...
A) unity B) training
C) spirit D) promotion
- Music** of strange lands with Islam's fire blends...
A) song B) culture
C) concord D) discord
- Music of strange lands with Islam's fire **blends**...
A) sounds B) asserts
C) mixes up D) flourishes
- On which the nation's **harmony** depends.
A) readiness B) disparity
C) unity D) spirit
- Empty of **concord** is the soul of Europe.
A) approval B) confusion
C) disunity D) harmony
- Love's **madness** has departed.
A) principle B) longing
C) perplexity D) passion
- Love's madness has **departed**.
A) thrived B) deepened
C) disappeared D) settled
- Ranks** broken, hearts perplexed, prayers cold.
A) unity B) posts
C) pledges D) distinctions
- Ranks broken, hearts **perplexed**, prayers cold.
A) puzzled B) pleased
C) contented D) composed
- Ranks broken, hearts perplexed, prayers **cold**.
A) inadequate B) prolonged
C) passionless D) irregular
- To be faithless is worse than **slavery**.
A) robbery B) prisoner
C) servitude D) poverty

Answers

1.	C	3.	A	5.	B	7.	C	9.	D	11.	A	13.	C
2.	C	4.	C	6.	C	8.	D	10.	C	12.	A	14.	C

Questions and Answers

Q.1 Who was Abraham (A.S.)?

OR

Who was Abraham? What was his faith?

(Board 2015)

Ans. Abraham (A.S.) was a prophet of God. He is regarded as a symbol of strong faith in God. He jumped into the burning fire but did not abandon his faith. The fire lost its burning tendency. God saved His beloved Prophet. He emerged victorious in the trial of his faith.

Q.2 What, according to Allama Iqbal, is faith?

Ans. According to Allama Iqbal, faith is like Abraham (A. S.) at stake. Faith should be absolute. It makes one self-honouring and full of God's love. It is a complete submission to the will of God.

Q.3 What, according to Allama Iqbal, is worse than slavery?

(Board 2010)

Ans. A life without faith is worse than slavery. Because even a slave has a master, the object of his reverence, and to whom he renders his submission. Today, man is a slave to his temptations and worldly gains. In this age of enlightenment, absence of faith is worse than slavery.

Q.4 Who cannot compete with the civilization of Makkah?

OR

Why can't the Western civilization compete with the Islamic civilization?

OR

How does Allama Iqbal make a contrast between Islamic and Western civilization?

Ans. Islamic civilization has a unifying factor in the form of Makkah, a place of holy pilgrimage. The Western civilization does not have any such unifying and cementing force. European civilization cannot compete with the civilization of Makkah.

Q.5 What has made the efforts of the Muslims fruitless?

(Board 2007)

OR

What are the causes of the downfall of the Muslims?

Ans. According to Allama Iqbal, lack of faith and harmony has made the efforts of the Muslims fruitless. The Muslims have departed from the true spirit of Islam. They are divided by ethnic and sectarian factors.

Q.6 What is the present state of the Muslims as given in the last stanza of "Ruba'iyat"?

OR

How does Iqbal paint the Muslims of today?

Ans. The Muslims of today are devoid of love for their religion. Their hearts are perplexed and they do not have madness of love. They are lost in the colourfulness of the worldly life and hanker after only material gains.

Q.7 Point out the two factors which according to Allama Iqbal are the causes of the downfall of the Muslims?

(Board 2007)

Ans. According to Allama Iqbal, lack of faith, their distance from their religion, and blind following of the Western civilization have caused the downfall of the Muslims.

Q.8 What is the theme of "Ruba'iyat"?

OR

What does Iqbal say in "Ruba'iyat"?

Ans. Allama Iqbal has addressed the Muslims. He believes that their unity, harmony, identity and survival depend upon a true strong faith in their religion. "Ruba'iyat" emphasizes that faith in God can guarantee freedom, success and glory for the Muslims.

Explanation with Reference to the Context

Stanza 1:

Faith is like Abraham at the stake; to be
Self-honoring and God-drunk, is faith. Hear me,
You whom this age's way so captivate!
To have no faith is worse than slavery.

Reference:

These lines have been picked from "Ruba'iyat" by Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

Context:

Allama Iqbal has addressed the Muslims. He believes that their unity, harmony, identity and survival depend upon a true strong faith in their religion. "Ruba'iyat" emphasizes that faith in God can guarantee freedom, success and glory for the Muslims.

Explanation:

In the above lines, Iqbal lays stress on the need of strong faith in God. According to the Islamic concept, a person's faith saves him from disgrace and from going astray. If a person has firm belief in religion, he has everything in life. He doesn't have to bow before false gods. A life without faith is worse than slavery. Lack of faith makes one bow before the altar of false gods. Iqbal stresses the need of faith in individual as well as in collective life.

Stanza 2:

Music of strange lands with Islam's fire blends,
On which the nation's harmony depends;
Empty of concord is the soul of Europe,
Whose civilization to no Makkah bends.

Reference:

These lines have been picked from "Ruba'iyat" by Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

Context:

Allama Iqbal has addressed the Muslims. He believes that their unity, harmony, identity and survival depend upon a true strong faith in their religion. "Ruba'iyat" emphasizes that faith in God can guarantee freedom, success and glory for the Muslims.

Explanation:

Finding the Muslims of his time so derailed and astray, Iqbal has tried to make them realize the glory of the religion they profess. To Iqbal, Islam has the force to get all the Muslims united irrespective of race or colour. This makes the whole Muslim world into one nation (*ummah*), and a great force. Side by side, Iqbal throws light on the weak European Civilization, where the concept of nation is based on territory, colour, language, race etc. It does not have the unifying force like the Holy *Ka'aba* which is the center of the whole Islamic world, a symbol of unity among the Muslims all over the world. Iqbal clearly shows the Muslims of his time the road to success.

Stanza 3:

Love's madness has departed: in
The Muslim's veins the blood runs thin;
Ranks broken, hearts perplexed, prayers cold,
No feeling deeper than the skin.

(Board 2007)

Reference:

These lines have been picked from "Ruba'iyat" by Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

Context:

Allama Iqbal has addressed the Muslims. He believes that their unity, harmony, identity and survival depend upon a true strong faith in their religion. "Ruba'iyat" emphasizes that faith in God can guarantee freedom, success and glory for the Muslims.

Explanation:

These lines are a true depiction of the plight of the Muslims of today. Here Iqbal analyzes the causes of their downfall and points out the ills they are suffering from today. He is grieved to see disunity among them. The common love and essence of brotherhood, which the Muslims once shared, have disappeared. The Muslims do not share the feelings of love, brotherhood, sacrifice and unity among themselves. Distance from the true spirit of Islam has made their prayers ineffective and mere rituals. Lack of religious zeal and fervour among the Muslims has caused the present heart-wrenching predicament being faced by the Muslim world.



free ilm.