

Poem
20

In Broken Images

(Robert Graves)

Words and Expressions

trust	—	rely on, depend on	اعتبار کرنا۔ بھروسہ کرنا
mistrusting	—	doubt	شک کرنا
relevance	—	significance; application	مناسبت، معنویت
assume	—	suppose; presume	فرض کرنا، سمجھنا
approve	—	appreciate; accept; commend	سراہنا

Multiple Choice Questions

Choose the correct synonym.

- He is **quick**, thinking in clear images.
A) clear B) sharp
C) cautious D) studious
- He is quick, thinking in clear **images**.
A) secrets B) efforts
C) notions D) effects
- I am slow, thinking in **broken** images.
A) exaggerated B) unclear
C) rounded D) fair
- He becomes **dull** trusting to his clear images.
A) vain B) dubious
C) disinterested D) slow
- I become **sharp** mistrusting my broken images.
A) uncritical B) successful
C) clever D) hasty
- Trusting his images, he **assumes** their relevance.
A) tests B) imposes
C) supposes D) confuses
- Trusting his images, he assumes their **relevance**.
A) significance B) shallowness
C) impressiveness D) procedure
- When the fact fails him, he **questions** his senses.
A) confirms B) disturbs
C) examines D) doubts
- When the fact fails me, I **approve** my senses.
A) test B) restrict
C) appreciate D) abandon
- He in a new **confusion** of his understanding.
A) enlightenment B) perplexity
C) fusion D) rejection

Answers

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

Questions and Answers

Q.1 What is the condition of the two persons – the one who trusts clear images and the other who mistrusts broken images?

Ans. The person who trusts his clear images becomes dull and sluggish whereas the other who mistrusts his broken images becomes sharp, perceptive and inquisitive.

Q.2 Why does a person question his senses when the fact fails him?

Ans. The sharp person thinks that his findings are accurate. When his findings prove wrong, he is confused and questions his senses. It is ruinous when his knowledge fails and images shatter.

Q.3 Who is in a new confusion of his understanding?

Ans. The quick person who trusts his clear images is ultimately in a new confusion of his understanding. He questions his senses when the facts fail him. He is in utter confusion due to his dubious knowledge and futile experience.

Q.4 What conclusion does the poet draw in the last two lines of the poem "In Broken Images"?

OR

What is the theme of the poem "In Broken Images"?

OR

What is the central idea of the poem "In Broken Images"?

Ans. The poem tells us that we should not take things for granted. Uncritical and hasty attitude leads to confusion. Inquiry into the nature of things leads one to understand the realities of life. One must possess this spirit of inquiry, lest one should live a life of sluggishness and monotony.

Q.5 Who wrote the poem "In Broken Images"?

Ans. Robert Graves wrote the poem "In Broken Images".

Explanation with Reference to the Context

Stanza 1:

He is quick, thinking in clear images;
I am slow, thinking in broken images.
He becomes dull, trusting to his clear images;
I become sharp, mistrusting my broken images.

Reference:

These lines have been taken from the poem "In Broken Images" written by Robert Graves.

Context:

Life is full of riddles. There is no end to the discovery; mysteries abound. The one who thinks in clear images ends up in confusion in the face of a new understanding whereas the one who thinks in broken images, finds a new understanding in every confusion which rectifies the old previous notions and paves the way for further inquiry, search and research.

Explanation:

In these lines, the poet has presented two persons. One of them is quick and thinks in clear images whereas the other person is slow and thinks in broken images. As the first person is overconfident about the correctness of his images, he becomes dull. He is not critical of the relevance of his images. On the other hand, the person who mistrusts his broken images tries to find out the truth of his images. His curiosity into the nature of things leads him to understand the realities of life. As a result, he becomes sharp.

Stanza 2:

Trusting his images, he assumes their relevance;
 Mistrusting my images, I question their relevance.
 Assuming their relevance, he assumes the fact;
 Questioning their relevance, I question the fact.
 When the fact fails him, he questions his senses;
 When the fact fails me, I approve my senses.

Reference:

These lines have been taken from the poem "In Broken Images" written by Robert Graves.

Context:

Life is full of riddles. There is no end to the discovery; mysteries abound. The one who thinks in clear images ends up in confusion in the face of a new understanding whereas the one who thinks in broken images, finds a new understanding in every confusion which rectifies the old previous notions and paves the way for further inquiry, search and research.

Explanation:

In these lines, the poet tells us further about the ways and methods of the thinking of two persons. The first one trusts his images and accepts them to be suitable but the second man mistrusts his images and questions their relevance. The first man accepts the images to be suitable and thinks that he has reached the truth. On the other hand, the second man keeps on examining and analyzing the suitability of his broken images. When the fact lets down the man with clear images, he doubts his senses. However, the man with broken images approves his senses when the fact fails him.

Stanza 3:

He continues quick and dull in his clear images;
 I continue slow and sharp in my broken images.
 He in a new confusion of his understanding;
 I in a new understanding of my confusion.

Reference:

These lines have been taken from the poem "In Broken Images" written by Robert Graves.

Context:

Life is full of riddles. There is no end to the discovery; mysteries abound. The one who thinks in clear images ends up in confusion in the face of a new understanding whereas the one who thinks in broken images, finds a new understanding in every confusion which rectifies the old previous notions and paves the way for further inquiry, search and research.

Explanation:

In these lines, the poet says that his rival researcher has a different approach to find out the truth. He is very prompt and hasty and concludes his findings within no time. As a result his understanding proves to be a new confusion for him because he has not duly cogitated and pondered over his thesis. On the other hand, the poet contemplates profoundly and remains confused for a considerable time but ultimately comes to a final conclusion and understanding. Thus, the poet ends the poem by stating that progressive thinking, although seems chaotic, ultimately finds the solution which is not the case with traditional thinking.