

The Snake Trying

Summary

- The poem 'The Snake Trying' is a description of a snake who is a victim.
- The poet describes how a snake is trying to escape from someone, who is chasing it with a stick, by slithering away in curvy and graceful moves of his thin long body.
- The poet admires its beautiful and graceful shapes.
- Suddenly the small, green snake glides through the water into the reeds to hide.
- The poet recollects, the snake laid along the sand until it was found and chased. Now it has disappeared in the ripples among the green slim reeds.
- The poet wants to say that people consider snakes as fearsome symbols of death.
- They try to kill it even if it is harmless because of the false information they have.

‘The Snake Trying’ by W.W. Ross brings out the fact that snakes and other species are nature’s creation and they should not be harmed as they have the same right of survival as we humans have. We should not kill animals and other creatures of God, specially when they are not harmful. The poet appeals to us that all snakes are not poisonous and dangerous. We should not pursue and beat the snake to death as it tries to slither away into its natural habitat. Some of the snakes are quite harmless and it is foolish to kill a snake as soon as we see it. Majority of the snakes are victims of man’s fearful wrath.

- **Rhyme Scheme:** There is no rhyme scheme. The poem is written in free verse.

Poetic Devices:

- **Imagery:** It means to use figurative language to represent objects, in a way that it appeals to our physical senses.
Eg: He glides through the water away from the stroke
- **Alliteration:** The repetition of a consonant sound in two or more consecutive words.
Eg: He is harmless – sound of ‘h’
- **Transferred Epithet:** The adjective used with a noun refers to a noun other than the one with which it is used.
Eg: Pursuing stick - pursuing refers to the person who is holding the stick and not the stick itself.

- **Apostrophe:** a figure of speech in which a speaker directly addresses someone (or something) that is not present or cannot respond in reality. **Eg.** O let him go – Poet is addressing the person who is chasing the snake.

Questions & Answers:

Q1. What is the snake trying to escape from?

A1. The snake is trying to escape from someone, who is chasing it with a stick. The snake is under threat and is trying to save its life.

Q2. What does the poet wish for the snake?

A2. The poet wishes that the snake must be allowed to go unhurt because it is harmless even to children. It does not harm unless provoked, so no one should try to kill it.

Q3. What does the poet appeal to the readers?

A3. The poet does not consider the snake to be harmful and dangerous. According to the poet, we should be sympathetic to the snake and should not disturb it unnecessarily.

Q4. What is the message conveyed in the poem?

A4. The poet is an animal lover. He conveys the message that we should love the animals. We should not kill the animals and other creatures of God, especially when they are not harmful. They also have a right to live peacefully on the earth.

Extra Questions:

Q1. Where was the snake before anyone saw it and chased it away? Where does the snake disappear?

Q2. How did the poet describe the movement of the snake?

Q3. The snake described in the poem is a victim and not a danger. Do you agree? Elucidate your answer.