



By Subramania Bharati

Page No: 31

Thinking about the Poem

I.

1. What are the things the wind does in the first stanza?

Answer:

In the first stanza, the wind shatters breaks the shutters of the windows, scatters the papers, throws down the books from the shelf, tears the pages of the books and brings showers of rain.

2. Have you seen anybody winnow grain at home or in a paddy field? What is the word in your language for winnowing? What do people use for winnowing? (Give the words in your language, if you know them.)

Answer:

Yes, I have seen many women winnowing grain in villages.

Pachhorana is the word in my language for winnowing. People use chaaj or winnowing fan for winnowing purpose.

3. What does the poet say the wind god winnows?

Answer:

The poet says that the wind god winnows the weak crumbling houses, doors, rafters, wood, bodies, lives and hearts, and then crushes them all.

4. What should we do to make friends with the wind?

Answer:

To make friends with wind we need to build strong homes with firm doors. We should also make ourselves physically and mentally strong by building strong, firm bodies and having steadfast hearts.

5. What do the last four lines of the poem mean to you?

Answer:

In the last four lines, the poet inspires us to face the wind, which symbolises the hardships of our lives, courageously. He tells us that the wind can only extinguish the weak fires; it intensifies the stronger ones. Similarly, adversities deter the weak-hearted but make stronger those who have unfaltering will. In such a case, befriending the wind or the hardships of life makes it easier for us to face them.

6. How does the poet speak to the wind — in anger or with humour?

You must also have seen or heard of the wind “crumbling lives”.

What is your response to this? Is it like the poet's?

Answer:

The poet speaks to the wind with anger.

Yes, strong winds are known to cause plenty of damage and destruction to both life and property.

Storms, cyclones, gales and strong winds cause havoc on land.

They uproot trees, bring down houses, tear down electric posts and claim lives.

They also cause damage to boats and frighten the poor sailors and fishermen out at sea.

Yet, I do not agree with the poet that the wind only 'crumbles lives'.  
The wind is responsible for bringing rain; it cools the land and  
makes the climate pleasant.  
Today, wind energy is harnessed for several useful purposes  
including turning windmills, wind turbines and generating electricity.

II. The poem you have just read is originally in the Tamil. Do you  
know any such poems in your language?

Answer:

Yes, I have read another poem on wind. It is titled 'Toofan' and was  
originally written in Hindi by Naresh Aggarwal.

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