

# Palanquin Bearers (Poetry)

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ARTS | Commerce | Science

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AEC – **Alternative English**

## Important Questions & Answers-

**Q 1. Who sang the poem the “Palanquin Bearers”?**

Answer: In this poem, the palanquin bearers sang the song while carrying the bride.

**Q 2. Who is being carried in the palanquin?**

Answer: A newly married lady is carried in the palanquin.

**Q 3. Where are they carrying the palanquin?**

Answer: They are carrying the palanquin to the home of the bride’s husband.

**Q 4. What purpose do similes serve in the poem “Palanquin Bearers”?**

Answer: In this poem, similes are used to describe the delicacy, softness, and embalming beauty of the lady.

Q 5. How does the poet describe the movement of the palanquin?

Answer: The poet describes the movement of the palanquin by comparing it to a beam gliding over a stream.

Q 6. What do the palanquin bearers want to mitigate?

Answer: They want to mitigate the bride's sadness as well as her weariness by singing the song.

Q 7. What is the meaning of the expression "a tear from the eyes of a bride"?

Answer: This expression hints at the mental state of the bride. She sheds tears as she is leaving her father's home.

Q 8. What are the two adverbs used to describe the way the palanquin bearers were carrying their passenger?

Answer: The two adverbs that are used to describe the movement of the bearers are "Lightly" and "Softly".

### Q 9. How do palanquin bearers carry the bride?

Answer: They carry the bride lightly and softly. Besides, they sing a beautiful song that adorns her features.

### Q 10. Why do the palanquin bearers carry the bride lightly?

Answer: The bearers, by no means, want to make the bride feel tiresome throughout the journey. Hence, they sing a song while carrying the palanquin as lightly as they can.

### Q 11. How do the palanquin bearers feel while carrying the bride?

Answer: The bearers feel happy in the whole process. They gaily carry the bride as she is a precious gift given to those humble men to take care of.

### Q 12. Why is the bride compared to a “flower” and a “bird”?

Answer: The bride’s calm and soft features are compared to that of a flower. Besides, the way the

palanquin is carried makes it feel that the lady is gliding in the air like a bird.

**Q 13. What is the poem “Palanquin Bearers” about?**

Answer: It is a folk song of the palanquin bearers, typically sung while carrying a newlywed bride. While carrying her to her father’s home to the groom’s home, bearers often sang such songs in order to cheer the bride up. This song features a variety of epithets used to adorn the delicate beauty of the lady.

**Q 14. Why is the bride referred to as “a pearl on a string”?**

Answer: By using this phrase, Naidu describes how precious the bride is for the bearers. She is like a pearl, hanging delicately from a string. Here, the string is metaphorically compared to either the palanquin or the bearers. Collectively, they form a pendant and the pearl enhances the value of the chain.

**Q 15. What is the meaning of “Palanquin Bearers”?**

Answer: The term “Palanquin” originated primarily from East India. It means a covered box, often used

for a single passenger. The large box is carried on two horizontal poles by four or six bearers. In this poem, Naidu features the song of such bearers while carrying a lady in the palanquin.

**Q 16. In which year the “Palanquin Bearers” was published?**

Answer: The poem was first published in London, the United Kingdom in 1896 and later it was published in 1905 in Hyderabad. It appears in Sarojini Naidu’s first poetry collection The Golden Threshold.

**Q 17. What is the tone of the poem “Palanquin Bearers”?**

Answer: The tone of this piece remains cheerful, cajoling, and heartwarming throughout. It changes slightly to a sad one in the fourth line of the second verse. However, the poet stylistically maintains the overall tone.

**Q 18. What is the mood of “Palanquin Bearers”?**

Answer: The mood of this poem is high-spirited, light, and celebratory. This song is sung to cheer the lady up while traveling to her destination.

### Q 19. Why do the palanquin bearers sing?

Answer: The bearers, by no means, want to make the bride feel tiresome throughout the journey. Hence, they sing a song while carrying the palanquin as lightly as they can.

### Q 20. How do we know that the palanquin bearers think that the bride is delicate and must be treasured?

Answer: From the last line of each verse “We bear her along like a pearl on a string”, it becomes clear that the bride is delicate and must be treasured.

### Q 21. What is the message in “Palanquin Bearers” by Sarojini Naidu?

Answer: Through this poem, Naidu conveys an interesting message to readers. It concerns how

precious a bride is for the palanquin bearers. They feel blessed to bear her.

**Q 22. What does the phrase “brow of the tide” mean?**

Answer: This phrase refers to the upper portion of a tide. “Brow” means the summit or peak. It is also a reference to an eyebrow. Hence, this phrase can be interpreted in two ways.

**Q 23. Do you think the palanquin bearers are sensitive to the presence of the bride?**

Answer: They are indeed sensitive to the presence of the bride. She is a pearl for them that they are given to take care of.

**Q 24. Why does the poet refer to bridal laughter and bridal tears?**

Answer: The poet refers to the bridal laughter as well as her tears in order to depict the state of a bride’s mind. She is happy to begin a new journey. Besides, she feels sad to leave her home for the first time.

**Q 25. Why do the palanquin bearers say they carry the palanquin lightly?**

Answer: They carry the palanquin lightly as the passenger sitting inside is like an invaluable pearl for them.

**Q 26. Why do the palanquin bearers feel privileged?**

Answer: They feel privileged to carry the bride. Along the journey, there is none from her family to take care of. Only the bearers are there to protect, cheer and take care of her.

**Q 27. What does the poet mean by “lips of a dream”?**

Answer: The lady is as transient as a dreamer's laughter. Before marriage, she brought a smile to her parent's faces. After marriage, her presence will bring a smile to her husband's face. In this way, she floats like a peal of laughter from one's face to another's.

**Q 28. For what purpose were palanquins used in the past?**



Answer: Palanquins were used for transportation in the past. Newly married brides, kings, and queens traveled to faraway places by palanquins.