## The Character of Happy Life – Sir Henry Wotton

The poet expresses his understanding of a man who is happy with his life. He is of the view that such a man was born happy and has been taught to be happy in every situation. He faces the problems of living happily and confidently. He serves his own will. In addition, his will is always to serve others. Whatever he wants to do, he does it resolutely. He does not need any armour to fight for truth. His only armour is his honest thoughts. He is skilled in speaking the truth.

In the next stanza, the poet says that a happy man is the master of his desires and passions. He is not afraid of death, so he is always prepared to face it. The poet also says that the life of a happy man is free from every tension and anxiety. He lives in the world of reality instead of fantasy. He does not get flattered with anything. Nothing attracts him madly accept good deeds.

The poet is of the view that a happy man does not beg to anyone for the things he needs. He keeps patience upon his desires and needs. He only prays to God for these things. He has a strong faith in God. He does not expect gifts from his God in return for the services he provides to His creature; instead, he just expects His mercy and His favours.

In the last stanza, the poet says that the happy man is not bound of anything. He is free to do whatever he wants to do. He does not work to raise his status or for fear of a decrease in his status. He is free from such things. He is the master of himself. He does not own lands and properties. He only owns himself and even having nothing in his ownership, he has everything with him. He is the richest man on earth because he is happy.

## No Men Are Foreign – James Kirkup

The poem tells us that all the divisions based on nation, caste, colour, creed or religion are baseless since we all are similar in our basic need of the common resources for our life. We all have a common source of origin and we all are dependent on the same resources for our survival. Since we are all same, we must shun all violence of all kinds and unite to make our lives better.

‘Uniforms’ here signify the armies of the several countries who are constantly at war in the name of nationhood, religion or caste. ‘Single body breathes’ refers to the inherent similarity between all human beings. ‘Peaceful harvests’ refers to the fact that it is only in the times of peace that a civilization progresses. It is only in time of peace that everybody lives in harmony and contentedness.

In fact, if a war is raging in a country then that country faces the threat of starvation since all sorts of production comes to a halt. This very idea is conveyed by ‘war’s long winter’. War renders a land barren. It makes the life of the people and the lands infertile, both of them are unable to create anything meaningful. ‘Hands’ and ‘lines’ stand for products and goods and literature respectively which come from various places. ‘Hells of fire and dust’ could refer to a wartime destruction of a civilization. It does obliquely refer to the atomic bombs, which created a scene similar to this. In fact, many scientists predict that in the event of a nuclear holocaust the entire earth will be covered with so much dust that the earth will be bound for a very long time in nuclear winter wherein the absence of the sunlight nothing will grow.

## If – Rudyard Kipling

The poem is a paean to British stoicism and masculine rectitude; almost every line in each stanza begins with "If".

If you can keep your head while those around you lose theirs; if you can trust yourself when others doubt you; if you can be patient and not lose your temper; if you can handle being lied about but not lie yourself, and being hated but not hating yourself; if you do not look too good or talk too wise:

If you can dream but not let those dreams cloud your reason; if you can think but still take action; if you can deal with both triumph and disaster; if you can handle it when others twist your truths into lies, or take the things you devoted your life to and turn them from broken into alive again:

If you can take all of your winnings and bet them in one, fell swoop, lose them all, and then keep it a secret; if you can use your heart, muscles, and nerves to hold on even when there is only will left:

If you can remain virtuous among people and talk with Kings without becoming pretentious; if you can handle foes and friends with ease; if you see that men count on you but not too much; if you can fill every minute with meaning:

Then you have all the Earth and everything upon it, and, as the speaker exultantly ends, "you'll be a Man, my son!"