Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Assignment: In the Bazaars of Hyderabad

Answer the following :

1. Who are mentioned in the first stanza? What are they doing?

Ans: Merchants are mentioned in the first stanza. They are selling their wares in the bazaar.

1. How are the wares displayed? Why?

Ans: The wares displayed are rich. These wares are expensive and meant for the rich

1. Which wares are displayed by the merchants?

Ans: Expensive wares like turbans of crimson and silver, tunics of purple brocade, mirrors with panels of amber and daggers with handles of jade are displayed in the bazaar.

1. Which section of the society does the first stanza reflect? Give reasons for your answer?

Ans: The first stanza reflects the rich and the wealthy people of the society. The wares mentioned are expensive . This reflects the fact that there is a section of the society that can afford abundance and lavishness.

1. What do the vendors weigh?

Ans: The vendors weigh saffron, lentil and rice.

1. What is the difference between merchants, vendors and pedlars?

Ans: Merchants are shopkeepers while vendors are people who sell wares on a cart or a stall. Whereas pedlars are the ones who sell goods by going from one place to another.

1. The vendors are selling saffron, lentils and rice. What does this signify?

Ans: Saffron is very expensive and signifies the richness of the Indian culture. Lentils and rice , the staple diet of Indians, symbolise the middle class existing in the nations.

1. What are the maidens doing? What is the significance of these in the Indian Society?

Ans: The maidens are grinding aromatic cosmetics like sandalwood and henna. They are also grinding spices. These things are used by the women of India. So the poet is bringing out the fact that Indian women are also a part of the hustle and bustle of an Indian bazaar. There is also hint of the fact that India is a land of spices.

1. What are the pedlars selling? Are these expensive things? Why?

Ans: The pedlars are selling chessmen and dice which are used while playing board games. Yes, these are expensive things as the dice are made of ivory.

1. What do the goldsmiths make?

Ans: The goldsmiths make wristlets, anklets, rings, very delicate bells for the pigeon’s feet, gold girdles for dancers , scabbards for the kings.

1. Why has the poetess mentioned the goldsmith?

Ans: The poetess has mentioned goldsmiths to show India’s capability and richness. Gold, being an expensive metal, could only be afforded by the wealthy. The poetess wants to show that India too has rich people who indulge in luxury goods. The goldsmiths creativity in making different ornaments with gold demonstrate the Indians’ craftsmanship in catering to a variety of customers.

1. What is made for pigeons? Why?

Ans: Delicate bells are made for the pigeon’s feet. Pigeons were kept by people in cages and also trained to carry love notes and other messages. The sound of the bell would intimate their arrival to the person receiving the message.

1. What are girdles and scabbards Who makes them? For whom are they made?

Ans: Girdles are ornamental belts of gold and silver worn by girls around their slim waists. Scabbards are cases used to cover daggers and swords. The goldsmith makes them. The girdles are made for dancers and the scabbards for the king.

1. Enlist the fruit sold by in the bazaars? What does this signify?

Ans: There is a variety of fruit sold in the bazaars like citrons, pomegranates and plums.

1. What is the significance of the musicians in the poem?

Ans: The musicians suggest that the Indian bazaar is not just a place for trade but also for entertainment. India is known worldwide for its rich music. The mention of the musical instruments like sitar, sarangi and drum are to show India’s old familiarity with music.

1. Explain: spells for aeons to come

Ans: It means that the magicians in the market are chanting charms for even the future generations. It was believed that the spells cast by the magicians could have an eternal impact.

1. What are the flower girls doing?

Ans: The flower girls are weaving tassels of azure and red, crowns for bridegroom, chaplets for the bridegroom’s bed and sheets made of white flowers to perfume the sleep of the dead.

1. What do the flowers signify?

Ans: The flowers appeal to our sense of smell ( olfactory senses). They have a great importance in our Indian culture and traditions. They are used in both happy and sad occasions. They are used for ceremonies like weddings as well as at the time of death to cover the grave of the dead.

1. Bring out the contrast in the last stanza.

Ans: The last stanza mentions the use of flowers in the Indian traditional scenario. They are used to make chaplets to decorate that bed of the bridegroom as well as to make colourful tassels to decorate her forehead. Contrary to that they are also used at the time of death of a person to make a sheet to cover the dead.

1. What is the message of the poem?

Ans: Through this poem, the poetess Sarojini Naidu, wants to enthuse deep respect for India and her culture. She is appealing to the Indians to boycott foreign goods by highlighting the fact that the Indian bazaars are flourished with a large variety of goods catering to not only the rich but also the common man. She wants to revive the self-esteem of her countrymen and motivate them to unite and boycott foreign goods.