

CLASS – 9TH

Beehive- Chapter – 6th (Poem) No Men are Foreign

By- James Kirkup

About The Poet

James Kirkup (23 April, 1918 - 10 May, 2009) was an English poet, translator and travel writer. He wrote over 30 books, including autobiographies, novels and plays. He wrote under many pen names including James Falconer, Jun Honda, Andrew James, Taeko Kawai, Felix Liston, Edward Raeburn, and Ivy B. Summerforest. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 1962.

Summary

The poem "No Men Are Foreign" is written by James Kirkup. In this poem the poet says that we the human beings should always remember that no men are strangers, unusual and no other countries are foreign. Below all kinds of clothes, we all possess the same bodies. We all breathe in the same manner. The land on which our brothers walk upon is the same land on which we move. And it is the same land below which we shall all be at the end of our days (after we die). The sun, air and water that we enjoy ourselves with, is the same for other human beings also. During the times of peace, the crops we collect from the fields and feed ourselves on, other human beings also do the same and during the long winter of war, we all have to starve equally. All other human beings have got the same kind of hands that we possess. During their life, the hard work they do is no different from ours. We should remember that other human beings possess the same kind of eyes like those of ours. Their eyes wake, sleep like those of ours. Other human beings possess the same strength that we have and this strength of theirs can be won only by love. In every country, we find the common pattern of life, that we all can recognize and understand. We the human beings must remember that whenever we are told to hate our brothers, it'll be only ourselves that we shall deprive of their love because all men are own brethren. We're only criticizing and deceiving ourselves, if we start hating other human beings. We should always remember that when we prepare ourselves to fight against each other, we pollute and make dirty our earth only. The destruction caused during the times of war and the dust raised forthwith pollute the air which is everywhere our own. We must remember that no men are unusual; strangers and no other countries are foreign.

Poetic Devices Used in the Poem

Metaphor :

Beneath all uniforms, (here uniform represents different skin colours)

War's long winter.

Simile:

a single body breathes Like ours

Thinking About the Poem:

Q1. (i) "Beneath all uniforms..." What uniforms do you think the poet is mlar speaking about?

Ans. (i) The poet speaks about the various dresses that people of various countries wear but beneath them, the human body is same.

(ii) How does the poet suggest that all people on earth are the same?

Ans. The poet says that nobody is different and peculiar. No country is foreign. A single body breathes beneath all uniforms. Moreover, the land is the same everywhere.

Q2.In stanza 1, find five ways in which we all are alike. Pick out the words.

Ans. In following ways, we all are alike in stanza 1

- (i) No men are strange.
- (ii) No countries are foreign.
- (iii) A single body breathes beneath all uniforms.
- (iv) The land is same everywhere.
- (v) The land where we all shall lie, is also the same.

Q3.How many common features can you find in stanza 2? Pick out the words.

Ans.Following common features can be found in stanza 2

- (i) They, too, are aware of sun, air and water
- (ii) They, too, are fed by peaceful harvests.
- (in) Their hands are like ours.
- (iv) A labour not different from our own.

Q4. ".....Whenever we are told to hate our brothers"When do you think this happens? Why? Who 'tells' us? Should we do as we are told at such times? What does the poet say?

Ans. We are told to hate our brothers when our country is at war with another country. Countries wage war against other countries over territories, natural resources or over some very little issue that can be peacefully solved.

People with some superior motive provoke us to hate and fight each other. We should not do as we are told. Instead, we should remain peaceful. We should remember that we all are similar and in hating our brothers, we hate our own selves.

The poets says that all human are brothers and sisters. We should love them all.

BY- AMAR SINGH RAJAWAT