

POEM:-

ODE TO SOLITUDE

BY: ALEXANDER POPE

☆ PAGE No _____
DATE: / / 201

Ode to Solitude is a beautiful poem composed by Alexander Pope. As it clear by the title of the poem that the poem is about loneliness. It is one of the oldest poem of Pope in which he discussed the human desires.

According to the author the man is happy who has enough paternal property to live.

The Poet says that the man is happy who breathes native air. The man is content whose cattle and fields provide his needs.

This way the poet ~~talks~~ ^{praises} the farmers ~~are~~ happy indirectly. The poet thinks that farmers are happy and healthy as they labour hard.

In the end of the poem, the poet says that he want to die unknown and unseen. Hence, the poem is full of description of nature and country side people.

Explain the theme of solitude that the poet expands on in the poem.

The poet wants to lead a secluded and self-sufficient life by living in a few acres of ancestral land. He likes to live in his native place by tending cattle and farming. He wants to spend years softly in good physical health and mental peace. He wants to die unnoticed and unlamented. This is the theme of solitude explained by the poet.

What are the qualities that would please him if he possessed them?

Health of body, peace of mind, sound sleep at night, work and recreation mix in a balanced way are the qualities that would please the speaker if he possessed them.

Who according to Alexander Pope is a happy man.

The poet defines a happy man.

A happy man has very few needs. He is happy with his little piece of ancestral land. The contented farmer does not look for pastures.

This happy man is independent. He gets milk from his own milch cattle and grains from his own fields. In summer he sits in the shade of his trees. In winters he warms himself with their timber.

He has an innocent mind which knows no evil and enjoys sound sleep. This blessed being loves to read scripture and meditate.

The happy man wants no name and fame. He wants to live and die unknown.

How do trees help him?

Trees can help him by offering him shade in summer and fire wood in winters.

Central Idea:-

Ode on Solitude is a poem written by Alexander Pope. In this poem, Pope express his desire to lead a quiet and secluded life, with minimal assets.

The poet prefers to have just a few acres of land. He would not like to go anywhere out of his native region. He would like to breathe the air of his ancestral place, He wants to have a comfortable and self-sufficient life. He would get milk from herds, food from the fields, wool for clothing from sheeps. He prefers to be under the shadow of trees during summer, and use wood to make fire during the winter. All that required is good health, peace of mind and ~~quietness~~ quietness. He would spend his days in study and leisure, and live a life of a innocence and thoughts

The final note is that the poet would like to live and oblivious life.

with no necessity to be mourned or missed once he passes away.

ASSIGNMENT—:

- Ques1 How much land does a happy man own?
- Ques2 Does he buy milk from vendors.
- Ques3 Does he keep good health
- Ques4 How does he want to live
- Ques5 How does he want to die
- Ques6 Does he suffer from insomnia.



Fill in the blanks:-

Who wish and care

A few paternal acres bound

whose trees in summer yield him shade

Blest who can unconcern'dly find

Hours, days and years slide soft away

This let me live unseen, unknown

Thus unlamented let me die

steal from the World

Tell where I lye

POEM: ON GROWING OLD
— John Masefield

☆
PAGE No _____
DATE: / / 201

John Masefield in his poem "On growing old" says that each one of us has to grow old sooner or later no matter ~~or~~ how hard we try to stay young.

The poet is disheartened by this bitter truth and wishes that even though old age comes the one and only all, the beauty of an individual should remain intact and forever as a result of which an individual would not mind growing old. Though he is aware of the fact that growing old is something that cannot be avoided and beauty cannot stay forever, still he pleads beauty not to leave him.

Beauty has been personified by the poet in a lyrical manner. The beauty of something as a matter of fact as Masefield explains is replaced by something else. For example the beauty of fire is replaced by the beauty of ashes.

Masefield further insists on the fact that

even though it is not possible to stay young forever and ever, it is extremely essential to stay young from inside if not from outside. Masfield stresses on the importance of being passionate about life and the diversities that life has to offer as a result of which the heart or the inside of an individual never grows old.

Masfield also stresses on the importance of the fact that one should always appreciate beauty in all its forms and each and every individual should consider him or herself lucky to witness so much of beauty around ~~him~~ them.

All the individual should thank God and nature for witnessing so much of beauty around themselves each and every day.

Though Masfield time and again stresses on the importance of the fact that he is disheartened by the fact that he has ~~to~~ to grow old but he still gives an amazing message through the poem to the readers.

Growing old from outside cannot be avoided but one can always be young and passionate from inside. This is the secret to living a beautiful life. Though critics point out that Massfield unnecessarily stresses on the fact of growing old but they also appreciate him for making the readers understand the significance of passion.

The poet gives the secret of living a happy life to his readers and as a matter of fact, the readers do not get sad after reading the poem. The readers understand the fact that old age is inevitable but when they understand the significance of staying passionate forever their praise Massfield endlessly.

The readers will understand that they can face death happily when they are happy from inside because death like old age is also an inevitable part of life. One who has lived his or her whole life filled with passion and also appreciating beauty will die in peace.

STANZA BY STANZA ANALYSIS

Line 1 and 2

*Be with me, Beauty, for the fire is dying;
My dog and I are old, too old for roving.*

The persona is asking Beauty to stay with him because he is aware of his decrepit years left and his worn and feeble physical body. We can see that appearances are important to the persona. He also states that he is physically weak and no longer has the strength to wander around.

Line 3 and 4

*Man, whose young passion sets the spindrift
flying,
Is soon too lame to march, too cold for
loving.*

Masefield here talks about his early years from his experience at the sea. He was taken on for a voyage on a sailing ship and those experiences impressed him so much, he wrote memorable sea poem. He then says that soon he will be too frail to walk. Most elderly people also turn cold and find it hard to love others.

Line 5 to 7

*I take the book and gather to the fire,
Turning old yellow leaves; minute by
minute
The clock ticks to my heart*

The persona still seeks for knowledge despite his old age or he is looking back to an old book (yellow leaves). Then, he says again about the clock is ticking. The time is moving and it waits for no one. His heart will stop when the time comes.

Line 7 and 8

*A withered wire,
Moves a thin ghost of music in the spinet.*

Line 9 to 14

*I cannot sail your seas, I cannot wander
Your cornland, nor your hill-land, nor your
valleys
Ever again, nor share the battle yonder
Where the young knight the broken
squadron rallies.
Only stay quiet while my mind remembers
The beauty of fire from the beauty of embers*

The persona only can yearn for the youthful activities and years for he is incapable of doing so. He no longer can visit the beautiful places or take part in war where the brave soldiers fight. He feels that he can only reminisce about those wonderful blooming years from his dying body.

Line 15 to 18

*Beauty, have pity! for the strong have
power;
The rich their wealth, the beautiful their
grace,
Summer of man its sunlight and its flower:
Spring-time of man, all April in a face.*

Again, the persona asks mercy from Beauty. Masefield stresses that everything comes with something. For the strong have power, the rich with their wealth and the beautiful with their grace. He wishes that with his ageing years, beauty will come and save him from his wrinkled body.

Line 19 to 26

*Only, as in the jostling in the Strand,
Where the mob thrusts, or loiters, or is
loud,
The beggar with the saucer in his hand
Asks only a penny from the passing crowd,
So, from this glittering world with all its
fashion,
Its fire, and play of men, its stir; its march,
Let me have wisdom, Beauty, wisdom and
passion,
Bread to the soul, rain when the summers
parch.*

The persona is describing the world he sees now as he grows older. The mob causing ruckus and the beggar asking for money from the crowd. The 'glittering world with all its fashion' can be implied as the intimidating world with all kinds of people and action, so different from what he used to thought it is. The persona wishes for wisdom at his age, to see the world with a new eye and beauty again, for appearance is important to him. He hopes to have the wisdom that will be needed to face the crucial and needing world.

Line 27 and 28

*Give me but these, and though the darkness
close
Even the night will blossom as the rose.*

He feels that the wisdom, beauty and passion are important to him that even when the darkness close, the rose will still blossom.

Fill in the blanks.

For the fire is dying

My dog and I are too old

The clock ticks my heart

I cannot sail your seas

The beggar with the saucers in his hand

Ask a penny from the passing crowd

Summer of man is sunlight