

The Voice of the Rain

Question 1.

There are two voices in the poem. Who do they belong to ? Which lines indicate this ?

Answer:

The two voices in the poem are those of the poet and the rain. The poet asks the question : 'who art thou ?'. 'I am the Poem of Earth', said the voice of the rain.

Question 2.

What does the phrase 'strange to tell' mean ?

Answer:

The poet uses this phrase to express his surprise. It is a mystery how the rain speaks in a human voice.

Question 3.

There is a parallel drawn between rain and music. Which words indicate this ? Explain the similarity between the two.

Answer:

The rain and music are identical in a way. The rain calls herself the Poem of Earth. Neither can be touched. Both are eternal. Both bring joy to the earth, and beautify it. Rain, the song of the earth, disappears after fulfilling its purpose.

Question 4.

How is the cyclic movement of rain brought out in the poem ?

Answer:

What is the origin of the clouds ? 'It is born out of the union of earth and the sky, the sun and water. Water turns into vapour, rises upward and turns into a dark cloud. The same cloud descends to the earth again in watery form. This cyclic movement goes on externally.

Question 5.

Why are the last two lines put within brackets ?

Answer:

The last two lines are put within brackets because it is neither the voice of the ' poet, nor of the rain. It is a general comment on the life-cycle of water turned into clouds.

Question 6.

List the pairs of opposites found in the poem.

Answer:

rise — descend

day — night

altogether changed — yet the same

Question 7

Why does the poet call the poem a translation ?

Answer:

The poet asks the rain a question. The rain in its heavenly voice, answers the question. The poet has to translate that answer in simple English.

Question 8.

How are the clouds formed ?

Answer:

Clouds are born out of the union of the sky and the ocean. The hot sun takes the water vapours upward. The clouds dissolve into water again in the rainy season.

Question 9

How does the rain describe herself ?

Answer:

The soft falling shower calls itself the Poem of Earth. It is immortal. It may change ! in shape but it remains the same water.

Question 10

'Altogether change, and yet the same'. Say, what it means.

Answer:

The sea. water in summer turns into water vapours which rise to the sky in the form of clouds. The clouds come down again in the form of rain water. So the change is apparent, but not real.

Question 11

How does 'it' descend ? What does it do ?

Answer:

The clouds descend or come down to the earth again here and there. It takes on a funny and terrifying shape. When it comes down, it waters the dry fields and forests. It washes away dust particles and gives a new life to seeds.

Question 12

I give back life to my own origin. How does the rain do it ?

Answer:

The rain originates from the land and sea. It rises to the sky only to come down again. It enables the seeds to sprout and grow water is the soul of nature. Without rain, the earth would become a deadly desert.

Question 13.

What is the 'fulfillment' of the rain ?

Answer:

The fulfillment of the rain is in its service to nature. It gives a new life to seeds, to grass and to earth.