

Chapter 8-The Last Bargain(Pg 72)

Comprehension

A . Answer these questions:-

1. Justify the title of the poem .

Ans. The title is very apt because when the speaker met the innocent child on the beach, he was drawn towards him and his smile captivated him. After that he became a free man and never bargained or looked for work . So it was his last bargain in which he felt true pleasure at seeing the flawless character of the child and found happiness . No one was able to hire the speaker either for power or money or beauty but the innocence and simplicity was enough to hire him for life.

2. Why did the speaker turn down the offer of the old man?

Ans. The speaker turned down the offer of the old man because when the old man came out and offered to hire him with his bag of gold and started counting the gold coins one by one , the speaker realized that once the money was over or the work the old man wanted to hire him for was done ,he would be again out of work. He realized that money would not give him what he actually desired .

3. What is the significance of referring to morning , mid-day and evening in the poem ?

Ans. The morning symbolizes hope and courage . Here the speaker was hopeful that he would achieve what he desired and gave him courage to move with determination on the difficult path which lay ahead . The midday again symbolises difficulty but he continues. The evening and dark symbolises hopelessness and sorrow .

4.What is the significance of freedom in the poem ? What kind of the freedom is the speaker looking for ?

Ans. Freedom signifies independence from bondage .The speaker is looking for freedom and liberty from slavery . He values his freedom more than becoming slave for power, gold and beauty . He desires to be free from all these things which make the man a servant .

B. Explain these lines with reference to the context:-

1. But his power counted for nought ,and he went away in his chariot.

Ans. This line is taken from the first stanza ,‘The Last Bargain ‘. The speaker realized that the king’s might was not worth much as it is not everlasting so he denied the king’s proposal and the king leaves the place in his chariot.

2. ‘I will hire you with a smile.’

Ans. This line is taken from the third stanza when it was evening and the garden fences were full of flowers then a fair lady came out and she offered to take the speaker with her beauty .

3. From thenceforward that bargain struck in child’s play made me a free man .

Ans. This line is taken from the last stanza .When the child offered to hire him with nothing then from that day he realized that that was what he was longing for since long.The speaker found freedom in the child’s play. He became a free man .Therefore the power of innocence had the ability to break away his bondage .The child had the power to enslave him

C. Think and Answer:

1. What do the king , the old man and the fair maid symbolize ?

Ans. The king symbolizes power, the old man symbolizes wealth and the fair maid symbolizes beauty .
