

WIND SUBRAMANIA BHARATI



ABOUT THE POET

- ▶ **Chinnaswami Subramania Bharathi**, also known as **Bharathiyar** (11 December 1882 - 12 September 1921), was a Tamil writer, poet, journalist, Indian independence activist and a social reformer from Tamil Nadu. Popularly known as "Mahakavi Bharathi", he was a pioneer of modern Tamil poetry and is considered one of the greatest Tamil literary figures of all time.
- ▶ **Subramania Bharati** has drawn the living picture of **wind** which makes fun of the weak people or things. The poet teaches us how we should stand against our oppressors

Wind, come softly.
Don't break the shutters of the windows.
Don't scatter the papers.
Don't throw down the books on the shelf.
There, look what you did — you threw them all
down.
You tore the pages of the books.
You brought rain again.
You're very clever at poking fun at weaklings.

poking fun: making fun of something
weaklings: a person who is weak

The poet is talking to the wind. He asks the wind to come softly. So, he is saying that the wind should not be very strong, loud. It should be soft and subtle. Then he says that the wind is very powerful it is destructive, it breaks the shutters of windows and scatters the papers. When the wind is very powerful, all the books which are kept on the shelf fall down. So here, the poet is describing the power of the wind. Then he says to the wind to look at the destruction that it had done. Whenever there is a strong wind all the things that are weak, they all get scared and they can even fall and get hurt

**Frail crumbling houses, crumbling doors, crumbling rafters,
crumbling wood, crumbling bodies, crumbling lives,
crumbling hearts —**

crumbling: falling or to cause something to break

rafter: sloping beam which support the roof of the building

- *Here, the word ‘Crumbling’ is repeated so many times to lay stress that everything crumbles in the face of a strong wind. So, the poet is saying that when wind is very powerful, it is very strong, it leads to breakage of everything. Houses which are weak, fall, doors which are weak fall, the beams on which the roof of the buildings are supported, they also fall, all the wooden structures fall, all bodies of people fall, animals, lives, hearts. So, he is saying that everything crumbles. Everything that is weak reacts by falling down and breaking in the face of adversity.*

the wind god winnows and crushes them all.

winnows: to broke grain free of chaff, separate grain from husk by blowing on it.

- *The poet is addressing to wind as ‘wind god’, and he is saying that the powerful god of wind winnows, that means he sifts all the people and those people who are weak fall down and get crushed. So here, a comparison is made between wheat and people. Just like we winnow the wheat to separate the grain from chaff, the wind god separates the strong people from the weak people. When there is a strong wind, all the things that are weak fall and get crushed.*

He won't do what you tell him.
So, come, let's build strong homes,
Let's joint the doors firmly.
Practice to firm the body.
Make the heart steadfast.
Do this, and the wind will be friends with us.
steadfast – firm

- *The poet wants us to make friends with the wind i.e. the adversities in our lives. He says that the problems will not listen to us. They will come, so we should be prepared. In preparation, we should build strong homes and close the doors of our house firmly so that the wind cannot get into. And then he says that we should also make our bodies strong and hearts firm to face these challenges. And then once we are strong enough all the challenges will be like friends. We will not feel that they are troublesome.*

**The wind blows out weak fires.
He makes strong fires roar and flourish.
His friendship is good.
We praise him every day.**

The poet has kept the wind on a pedestal. He is comparing the wind to god. He says that wind is god and we praise wind every day. He adds that everything that is weak gets finished off in the face of the strong wind. And all the things that are strong, flourish and grow to become stronger. He is giving us a very important message, that we should not feel bad that we are facing so many challenges and adversities in life. We should make our self physically and mentally strong to face these challenges. And once we are strong enough, we will overcome the challenges, we will become friends with them and then we will be happy that we had these challenges in our life because they help us become stronger and better.

- ▶ The poem can be summarized in following ways to prove the fact represented by Subramania Bharti: -
- ▶ **Violence and destruction** - Although the poet requests the wind to blow gently but it does not accept the plea. The wind blows violently and causes destruction.
- ▶ **Result of storm** - The wind breaks the shutters of weak windows. It scatters the papers and throws down books on the shelves.
- ▶ **Fun of almighty wind God** - The poet has regarded wind as God. He says that he makes fun of the weak persons and things. The fast blowing wind destructs weak houses, weak doors and weak bodies.
- ▶ **Suggestion** - Subramania Bharti suggests us to build strong houses and strong doors. We must be healthy physically and mentally. It will help the wind to be friend. To sum up the poem, people with strong physique and mind are able to stand and face odds or obstacles

- ▶ Rhyme scheme - The entire poem is written in free verse. There is no rhyme scheme in the poem.
- ▶ The literary devices used are as follows -
- ▶ Anaphora - When a word is repeated at the start of two or more consecutive lines, it is the device of Anaphora.
- ▶ Lines 2, 3, 4 begin with 'don't'.
- ▶ Lines 6, 7, 8 begin with 'you'.
- ▶ Personification - wind has been personified. When the poet says 'you are', he is referring to wind as 'you' that means he is treating wind as a person.
- ▶ Repetition - 'crumbling' is repeated many times to lay emphasis. The poet wants to say that the wind crushes everything that is weak. That is why he repeats the word crumbling.
- ▶ Alliteration - the repetition of a consonant sound in close connection. 'wind winnows'.
- ▶ 'won't want'
- ▶ Symbolism - Symbolism means that the thing refers to some other thing. Wind is a symbol. It refers to the challenges in life. He is using wind as a symbol for the adversities in our life.