

# BOOK : HORNBILL

## POEM : CHILDHOOD

-MARKUS NUTTAN

### THEME

The poet here deals with the theme of loss of childhood . We often lament the loss of childhood . We get nostalgic for that period of life when there were no worries , stress , & tension . Childhood is lost in the process of physical , mental and emotional growth of a child. He became rational , understands the hypocrisy of the adults and develops his own individuality.

### Critical Appreciation

Poet has brought forth this theme by putting questions himself and to the audience and he tries to answer it himself by putting more questions which are rhetorical in nature 'was it the time..' "was it the day....."

Whole poem runs on this technique of repetition of question "when did my childhood go" and answers in the form of rhetorical questions. He conveys the idea that when a child becomes rational, he understands that hell and heaven are only figment of one's imagination not found in geography books.

In the second stanza using the same technique he talks about the hypocrisy and double speak of adults and in third stanza he talks about his own individuality with his own ideas and thought mind.

It is in the fourth and final stanza he seems to accept the fact that childhood is lost and the question changes from when to where i.e, Where did my childhood go? And a clear answer follows that now it can be found in an infant's face . He puts questions to himself and himself finds answers . This is in a way accepting the universal phenomena of growth and decay.

### Questions

1. What is the poet's feelings towards childhood?
2. Which poetic device he is using throughout the poem and with what effect?
3. Explain the lines;
  - a) "They talked of love and preached love ,  
but did not act so lovingly."
  - b) "was it when I found my mind was really mine."