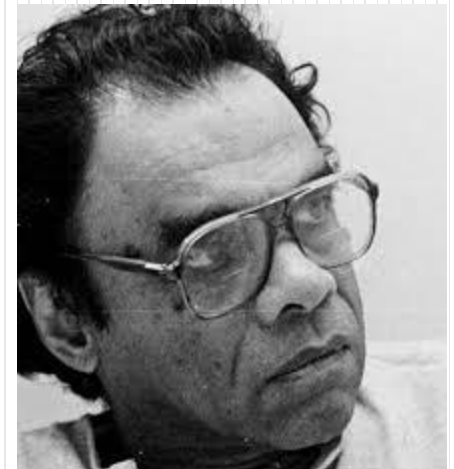


WIND

— Subramania Bharati

The Poet, Subramania Bharati, had written the poem in Tamil and it was translated in English by A.K. Ramanujan.



MAIN THEME:

Wind is a natural phenomenon. In this poem, the poet talks to the wind. The power of wind has been described and the poet says that wind is destructive. He has linked the destructive power of wind to the adversities of life and says that the weak people break down, but stronger people emerge out of adversities, stronger. The poem gives an important message that we should be mentally tough and physically strong in order to survive the hardships of life. A weak person breaks down like a weak building and crumbles under pressure. We must make these destructive forces our friends, with our strength and determination.

POETIC ANALYSIS

1. Wind, come softly.
2. Don't break the shutter of the windows.
3. Don't scatter the papers.
4. Don't throw down the books on the shelf.
5. There, look what you did – you threw them all down



- ❖ In the above five lines of the poem, the poet seems to request the wind, the destructive persona of the wind, to be gentle and not trouble him and his likes.
- ❖ The wind troubles human kind in various ways : shattering of the windows, scattering the paper, throwing down the books on the shelf etc.
- ❖ **Poetic Devices: Personification** – wind a non human entity has been given human characters, a person like characters, by addressing it as a human
- ❖ **Repetition** – The word 'Don't' repeats itself in line 2,3 & 4.
- ❖ **Rhyme scheme: Free Verse** – No rhyme scheme

6. You tore the pages of the books.

7. You brought rain again.

8. You're very clever at poking fun at the weaklings.

9. Frail crumbling houses, crumbling doors, crumbling rafters, crumbling wood, crumbling bodies, crumbling lives, crumbling hearts –



❖ The poet's accusation of the wind's destructive nature/ powers continues in these next five lines as well.

❖ In line 6, 7 and 8, there is a direct address to wind – 'You'.

❖ **Repetition** : 'You' in line 6,7 and 8 and 'crumbling' in line 9.

❖ Line 8 : Main crime - poking fun i.e. troubling/ bullying the weak people

❖ How does the wind bully people – by destroying their belongings in the form of houses, doors, rafters etc.

❖ Line 9 : all the crimes that wind has committed or the troubles that the destructive nature of wind has brought about.

❖ The storm, powerful wind, crumbles (destroys) the frail (weak) houses, doors, rafters etc.

❖ under these crumbled houses, bodies are caught and destroyed. Storms kill many people and thereby, crumble/ cripple (completely destroy) the spirit of life.

❖ Crumbling of hearts refers to the crippling of the spirit, of how one feels broken from within when one's belongings are destroyed.

10. The wind god winnows and crushes them all.

11. He won't do what you tell him.

12. so, come, let's build strong homes,

13. Lets joint the doors firmly.

14. Practice to firm the body.

15. Make the heart steadfast.



❖ Suddenly, the wind **personified** until now, has been elevated to the level of God. It could be because of the fact that it is far more powerful than any human being.

❖ Winnows : the process of winnowing, separating the grain from the chaff with the help of the wind.

❖ When wind god blows with full power, humans become as insignificant and as light as 'chaff'.

❖ Even in the Vedic times, phenomena of nature were more powerful than humans and beyond human understanding. The first gods in those times were also the powers of nature.

❖ In line 11, God never follows what you say, but have a will of their own.

❖ In line 12, 13, 14 & 15, the poet urges all the human beings – friends and family to come together and stand united in strengthening themselves. When you cant defeat the powerful, you strengthen your own fortress, get more powers to yourself.

❖ strengthen the community by building strong homes, firmly joining the doors, strengthening the body from within (steadfast/ strong mind, hopeful hearts) and from outside (ready to fight all troubles caused by the destructive wind).

16. Do this, and the wind will be friends with us.

17. The wind blows out weak fires.

18. He makes strong fires roar and flourish.



❖ The poet's tone and his opinion of the wind changes, suddenly.

❖ Here, when man has strengthened himself and his community, wind can not wreak havoc anymore and is thus a friend, now.

❖ In absence of any harm, all that the wind can do is to benefit. With better equipments have empowered man to reap the benefits of wind's power – wind energy.

❖ The poet talks of the lesson that man learns in the hard times of life : if you are strong then no one can harm you, instead, the strong seek your friendship and your company.

❖ The poet explains this further by taking the example of fire : just as weak fires (as in a candle) get blown by wind, strong fires (such as forest fires) get aggravated by strong winds. It only goes onto the highlight the main theme of the poem i.e. to derive power from within and stand strong and tall in the times of adversities/ difficulties. If you stand firm, nothing can defeat you.

❖ Roar : move ahead aggressively

❖ flourish : grow in size/ prosperity

❖ Us : is a common identification of you and me, we all, poet and readers

❖ Line 18 : **Poetic Device – Imagery** : the poet uses words to create sights and images that a reader can almost imagine and add beauty to the poem.

19. His friendship is good.

20. We praise him everyday.

❖ It is good to befriend the wind, to use it in the best possible way and get profits out of it.

❖ For example : In the form of wind energy, man is gaining much out of the powers of wind god.

❖ We praise him everyday – we pray to god everyday.

❖ The poet hails from Tamil Nadu, a coastal region. Coastal regions witness the worst storms, hurricanes etc, and so the importance of the theme – the power of wind.



LETS REVISE – Assignment 1

Rhyme scheme – The entire poem is written in free verse. There is no rhyme scheme in the poem.

Repetition – 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.

Imagery – When words create sights or images that the reader can almost imagine. It is to add beauty to the poem. Example: He makes strong fires roar and flourish.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS – Assignment 2

1. What are the things the wind does in the first stanza?

A. When the wind blows violently, it destroys everything. It breaks the shutters of windows, scatters the papers, throws the books down from the shelves, tears their pages and brings along a lot of rain.

2. What does the poet say the wind god winnows?

A. The wind God winnows means that nature sifts the weak things from the strong ones. Everything that is weak is tossed by the powerful wind and gets destroyed. Just like the winnower separates the grains of wheat from the chaff, similarly, the wind god separates the weak from the strong.

3. What should we do to make friends with the wind?

A. We must make ourselves strong to face the violent wind. When we will be strong, the wind will not harm us, instead it will become a friend and help us to grow and flourish.

4. What do the last four lines of the poem mean to you?

A. The last four lines of the poem carry an important message that the strong people emerge stronger and victorious in the face of adversities. We must make ourselves strong like a burning fire which grows and flourishes in the violent wind, we also prosper in the face of challenges.

THE END