

Ozymandias

Percy Bysshe Shelley

Poem at a Glance

- The poet meets a traveller from an ancient land.
- The traveller tells the poet that he has seen two huge trunkless legs of stone standing in the desert.
- Near those legs lay a shattered and half buried face in the sand.
- The face of the statue showed signs of contempt and cold command on it.
- It seems that the workmanship of the sculptor who made the statue, was of a very high order.
- The sculptor had read those passions of the living man quite well. He stamped those passions exactly on the lifeless stones.
- On the pedestal of the statue the following words were written:
“My name is Ozymandias, king of kings: Look upon my works, ye Mighty, and despair!”
- Now nothing has left of king Ozymandias’s symbols of power and glory.
- Only boundless and bare sand is spreading all around the broken statue and the shattered face of Ozymandias.

SUMMARY OF THE POEM

This famous sonnet of P.B. Shelley mocks all the worldly power, glory and grandeur. The ravages of time reduce even ‘the king of kings’ and the authoritative despots like Ozymandias to dust. Nothing is left of proud and arrogant Ozymandias’ power and glory. His broken statue and shattered half-buried face lie abandoned in the boundless and bare sand of a desert.

► A Traveller from an Antique (ancient) Land

The poet met a traveller. He had returned from an ancient land. He narrated the poet what he saw there. He saw two ‘vast’ trunkless legs of stone standing in the desert. Near them, a shattered face of the statue lay half sunk in the sand.

► प्राचीन देश से आया एक यात्री

कवि को एक यात्री मिला। वह यात्री एक प्राचीन देश से आया था। उसने कवि को बताया कि वहां उसने क्या देखा था। उसने बिना धड़ की दो विशाल पत्थर की टाँगें मरुस्थल में खड़ी हुई देखीं। उनके पास, बुत का एक टूटा हुआ चेहरा रेत में आधा धंसा हुआ पड़ा था।

► Expression on the Shattered Visage (face)

Expressions of scorn or hostility could be seen on the shattered face. The lip of the face was wrinkled. The signs of contempt or cold command were also visible on it. They showed that the man whose statue was made, was quite commanding and authoritative.

► High Class of Workmanship

The life-like expressions on the face of the statue clearly show that the sculptor who made the statues was a perfectionist. He had studied all those passions that arose in the heart of the living person very minutely. He stamped those passions exactly on the lifeless stones. The workmanship of the sculptor was flawless and perfect.

► Words Written on the Pedestal

On the pedestal (base) a brief account of the person was given. The man was Ozymandias. He was a mighty ruler and called himself the 'king of kings'. He was proud of his mighty deeds and wonderful achievements. Not to talk of the powerful and mighty human beings, even the Mighty would be in deep despair, if he looked upon his great achievements.

► Ozymandias' Pride, Glory and Grandeur Lie in Ruins

Ozymandias is no more in this world. His statue, the symbol of his power, authority and glory lies broken on the sand in the desert. Nothing is left now except the boundless and bare sand all around the shattered statue.

► टूटे हुए चेहरे के ऊपर भाव-भंगिमाएँ

तिरस्कार और विरोध के भाव उस टूटे हुए चेहरे पर देखे जा सकते थे। उस चेहरे के होठ पर झुरियाँ पड़ी हुई थीं। तिरस्कार और उदासीन प्रभुत्व के भाव भी उस पर देखे जा सकते थे। यह दिखाता था कि जिस आदमी का वह बुत बनाया गया था, वह काफी दबंग और प्रभावशाली (निर्णायक) था।

► उच्च दर्जे की कारीगरी

बुत के चेहरे पर अंकित सजीव भाव-भंगिमाएँ यह दिखाती हैं कि जिस भी शिल्पी ने वह बुत बनाया था वह (अपनी कला में) माहिर था। उसने उन भावनाओं को जो उस जीवित प्राणी के दिल में उठी थी, उन्हें बहुत सूक्ष्मता से पढ़ा था। उसने उन्हीं भावनाओं के वेग को निर्जीव पत्थरों पर हबहु उतार दिया था। शिल्पी की कारीगरी त्रुटिहीन और सम्पूर्ण थी।

► बुत के आधार स्तम्भ पर लिखे शब्द

बुत के आधार स्तम्भ (मंचिका) पर उस आदमी का संक्षिप्त वर्णन था। वह व्यक्ति Ozymandias था। वह एक बलशाली शासक था और स्वयं को "राजाओं का राजा" कहता था। वह अपने शक्तिशाली कार्यों और हैरानजनक उपलब्धियों पर गर्व करता था। शक्तिशाली और बलवान इन्सानों को तो छोड़िये सर्वशक्तिमान भी उसकी महान उपलब्धियों को देखकर घोर निराशा में डूब जाता।

► Ozymandias का घमंड, शान और शौकत खंडरों में पड़े हैं

Ozymandias अब इस संसार में नहीं है। उसका बुत, जो उसकी शक्ति, प्रभुत्व और शान का प्रतीक था, (अब) टूटा हुआ रेत पर पड़ा है। अब कुछ भी नहीं बचा, सिर्फ असीम, नंगे रेत के जो उस टूटे हुए बुत के चारों ओर फैला हुआ है।

PARAPHRASE OF THE POEM

1. I met a traveller from an antique land
Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert, Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies

(Lines 1-4)

Word-Meaning: **Antique**—ancient, प्राचीन। **Vast**—huge, विशाल। **Trunkless**—without the upper body, बिना धड़ के। **Shattered**—broken, टूटी हुई। **Visage**—face, चेहरा।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** मुझे एक प्राचीन देश से आया यात्री मिला। उसने मुझे यह बताया (कि): पत्थर की दो विशाल और बिना धड़ की टाँगें मरुस्थल में खड़ी हैं। रेत में, उन (टाँगों) के पास, आधा धंसा (डूबा) हुआ एक टूटा चेहरा पड़ा हुआ था।

► **Paraphrase.** The poet met a traveller who had come from an ancient land. The traveller told him that he saw two trunkless huge legs of stone standing in the desert. Near those legs, he saw a half sunk and broken face lying on the sand.

2. whose frown,
 And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
 Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
 Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
 The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed; (Lines 4–8)

Word-Meaning: **Frown**—(here) angry and unhappy expression moving the eyebrows together, त्योरियाँ चढ़ाते हुए गुस्से और नाखुशी के भाव। **Wrinkled**—with many wrinkles, झुर्रीदार। **Sneer**—facial expression of scorn or hostility in which the upper lip may be raised, चेहरे पर तिरस्कार एवं उपहास की भावना जिसमें ऊपर वाला होंठ ऊपर उठा हो। **Cold**—feelingless, indifferent, भावशून्य, उदासीन। **Command**—(here) sway, mastery, प्रभुत्व, आधिपत्य। **Sculptor**—the one who made the statue, मूर्तिकार, बुत-तराश। **Passions**—strong feelings, भावनाएँ। **Read**—understood minutely, सूक्ष्मता से समझ लिया था। **Survive**—still present, मौजूद हैं। **Stamped**—carved, खोदकर मूर्ति बनायी। **The hand**—the hand of the sculptor, मूर्तिकार का हाथ। **The heart**—the heart of the statue (heart of kind Ozymandias), Ozymandias के बुत का दिल। **That fed**—that gave birth to those passions, (उस दिल में) जहाँ ये भाव उत्पन्न हुए।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** और उस (बुत) के चेहरे पर त्योरियाँ चढ़ी हुई थीं और होंठों पर झुर्रियाँ पड़ी हुई थीं और उस पर भावशून्य प्रभुत्व के तिरस्कारपूर्ण भाव दिखायी पड़ रहे थे। ये सभी भाव-भंगिमाएँ यह बताती (सिद्ध करती) हैं कि जिस मूर्तिकार ने वह बुत बनाया था उसने उन भावनाओं को भली-भाँति समझ लिया था जिन्हें उसने निर्जीव पत्थरों पर खोद दिया था और जो अभी भी वहाँ विद्यमान (मौजूद) हैं। मूर्तिकार के हाथ ने जिस दिल में वे भावनाएँ उत्पन्न हुईं, उन्हें वैसे ही पत्थर पर उतार (नकलकर) दिया था।

3. And on the pedestal these words appear:
 “My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:
 Look upon my works, ye Mighty, and despair!”
(Lines 9–11)

Word-Meaning: **Pedestal**—base, आधार, पीठिका। **Ye**—you, तुम। **Mighty**—all powerful, सर्वशक्तिमान। **Despair**—be disappointed, निराश हो जाओ।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** और पीठिका (आधार, बुत के आधार) पर ये शब्द दिखायी देते हैं। “मेरा नाम Ozymandias है। मैं राजाओं का राजा हूँ। ये शक्तिशाली (बलवान) लोगों और हे सर्वशक्तिमान, मेरे (चमत्कारिक) कार्यों को देखो और निराश हो जाओ!”

► **Paraphrase.** On the base of the statue the following words appear: “My name is Ozymandias. I’m king of kings. O, powerful and mighty people of the world and the Almighty, look upon my wonderful works and achievements and become discouraged and disappointed (because you can’t even imagine to do such great works as I have done).”

4. Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
 Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
 The lone and level sands stretch far away.
(Lines 12–14)

Word-Meaning: **Beside**—else, और कुछ। **Decay**—gradual destruction, क्षय, बर्बादी। **Colossal**—huge, विराट, विशाल। **Wreck**—(here) ruins (of that huge statue), खंडहर (उस विशाल बुत के)। **Boundless**—endless, अनन्त। **Bare**—open, खुला। **Lone**—(here) only, केवल। **Level**—(here) flat, समतल। **Stretch**—spreading, फैला हुआ है।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** और बाकी कुछ भी नहीं बचा है। उस विशालकाय खंडित होकर नष्ट हुए बुत के दूर-दूर तक असीम, नंगे और समतल रेत के कुछ भी नहीं बचा है।

► **Paraphrase.** Nothing else has remained around the ruins of that huge broken statue of Ozymandias. Only endless and bare level sand is spread all around it. Nothing else can be seen around it except its ruins.

REFERENCE TO CONTEXT

Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:

1. I met a traveller from an antique land
Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert, Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies,

(Page 107)

Questions

- (a) What did the traveller see?
(b) What was lying near the sand?
(c) What is the opposite of 'modern' in the passage?

Answers

- (a) He saw two vast and trunkless legs standing in the desert.
(b) A broken face, half sunk, was lying on the sand near the legs.
(c) antique

2. whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed;

(Page 107)

Questions

- (a) What does the expression 'Wrinkled lip and sneer of cold command' tell?
(b) What passions still survive?
(c) What is the synonym for 'angry' in the passage?

Answers

- (a) This expression tells that the sculptor had well read the feelings present on the face of the man whose statue he was to make.
(b) The passions that stamped on the face of the statue of stone still survive.
(c) frown

3. And on the pedestal these words appear:
“My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:
Look upon my works, ye Mighty, and despair!”

(Page 107)

Questions

- (a) Where were the words written?
- (b) What do the words written on the pedestal show?
- (c) What is the synonym for the word ‘become sad’ in the passage?

Answers

- (a) The words were written on the base (pedestal) of the statue.
- (b) They show that Ozymandias was proud of his great achievements.
- (c) despair

4. Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away.

(Page 107)

Questions

- (a) What does the expression ‘that colossal wreck’ mean?
- (b) ‘boundless and bare’. What is the poetic device used in this phrase?
- (c) What is the synonym for the word ‘huge’ in the passage?

Answers

- (a) It means the huge broken statue of Ozymandias.
- (b) The poetic device used is alliteration.
- (c) colossal

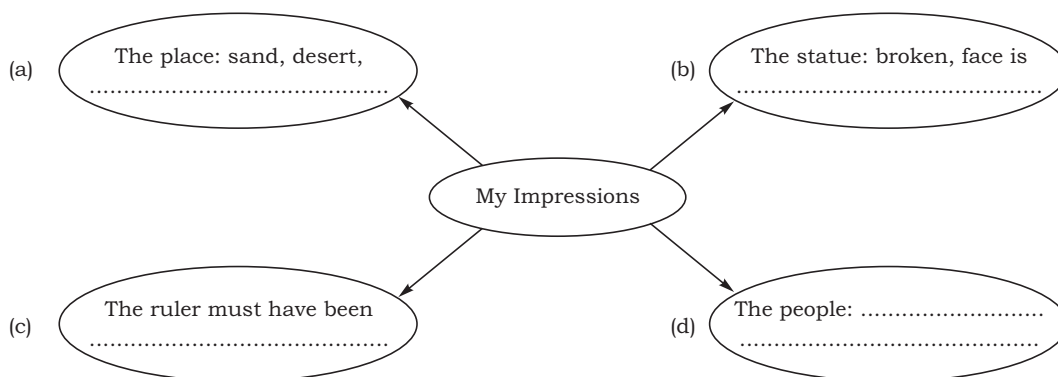
QUESTIONS FROM TEXTBOOK SOLVED

Q1. Look at the picture given below:

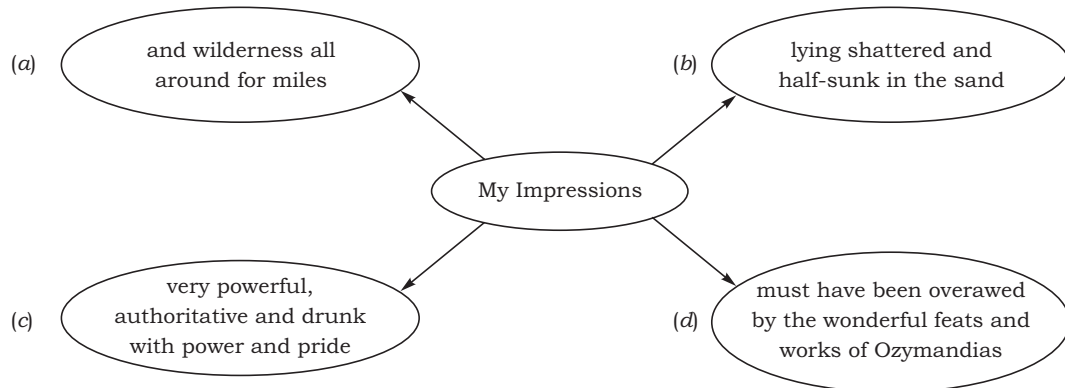
See Literature Reader Page 106

While on a sight-seeing tour to an old and mysterious country far away from home, you saw this statue. Discuss with your partner what this picture tells you about the people, the place and the ruler.

Note down your ideas in the web-chart.



Ans.



Q2. Write a letter to your friend about the sight you saw and your impression of it.

Ans. 12, Birsa Munda Road

Ranchi

10 March, 20xx

Dear Ramesh

Recently I happened to go to Jaisalmer. As I moved out of the town, I saw two huge trunkless legs of stone standing in the desert. It was a pleasant surprise to see such a huge structure in the wilderness. Quite near those legs was lying a shattered face half buried in the sand. I came closer and tried to study the expressions stamped on the face. There were expressions of contempt and cold command stamped on it. It was the face of a haughty and arrogant man.

The mystery was revealed when I read what was written on the pedestal of the statue. The statue was of Ozymandias. He was described as 'the king of kings'. He must have been a very powerful despot. He must have thought all other lesser mortals with contempt. The pedestal read : "Look upon my works, ye Mighty, and despair". He seems to be challenging even the Mighty not to talk of the powerful and mighty persons of the world. But alas! His symbols of grandeur and glory are reduced to dust. Nothing has remained of Ozymandias now. His broken statue and shattered face are lying half buried in boundless and bare sand.

Yours sincerely

ABC

Q4. Answer the following questions by ticking the correct options.

- (a) The poem is set in _____
(i) the wilderness (ii) an ancient land
(iii) a palace (iv) a desert.
- (b) The expression on the face of the statue is one of _____
(i) admiration (ii) anger
(iii) despair (iv) contempt.
- (c) This poem throws light on the _____ nature of Ozymandias.
(i) cruel (ii) arrogant
(iii) boastful (iv) aggressive.
- (d) The sculptor was able to understand Ozymandias' _____
(i) words (ii) expression
(iii) feelings (iv) ambition.

- (e) The tone of the poem is _____
 (i) mocking (ii) nostalgic
 (iii) gloomy (iv) gloating.
- Ans.** (a) (iv) a desert (b) (iv) contempt (c) (ii) arrogant
 (d) (iii) feelings (e) (i) mocking.

Q5. Answer the following questions briefly.

- (a) “*The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed.*” Whose hand and heart has the poet referred to in this line?
- (b) “*My name is Ozymandias, king of kings.*” Why does Ozymandias refer to himself as King of Kings? What quality of the king is revealed through this statement.
- (c) “*Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!*” Who is Ozymandias referring to when he speaks of ye Mighty? Why should they despair?
- (d) Bring out the irony in the poem.
- (e) ‘*Nothing beside remains*’. What does the narrator mean when he says these words?
- (f) What is your impression of Ozymandias as a king?
- (g) What message is conveyed through this poem?
- Ans.** (a) “The hand that mocked them” here means the hand of the sculptor. After understanding the passions that arose in the heart of Ozymandias, he reproduced (mocked) them on the stone. “The heart that fed” here means the heart of king Ozymandias which gave birth to those passions as were mocked (reproduced or copied) by the sculptor on the stone.
- (b) Ozymandias intended to immortalise himself by getting his huge statue erected. He wanted it to be seen by the posterity. He is mighty, proud of his power, position and achievements. Hence, he calls himself the king of kings—dreaded and feared by other kings.
- (c) Ozymandias is an arrogant king. He is contemptuous of other lesser mortals than him. He challenges the mighty and powerful persons as well as the Almighty, to look at wonderful achievements. If they dare to compare themselves with him, they will feel humbled, discouraged and disappointed.
- (d) The words of Ozymandias, ‘the king of kings’ prove to be tragic and ironical. The irony in the poem is brought about by the message that the poem gives to the readers. The memorial or the huge statue was erected to overawe and dazzle the posterity. It displayed the power, glory and grandeur of king Ozymandias. But what is the result? The statue that was to perpetuate Ozymandias’ memory lies broken into pieces on the sand in a desert. Nothing has remained except the boundless and bare sand stretching all around.
- (e) The poet P.B. Shelley very emphatically presses on one point. The ravages of time spare none. All power, authority, glory and grandeur are reduced to dust with the passage of time. Nothing else is left of Ozymandias, the king of kings. His statue and face lie broken and half-sunk in the sand. Art outlives or survives all worldly power, glory and grandeur.
- (f) Shelley presents Ozymandias as a very powerful ruler. He calls himself ‘the king of kings’. He is mighty and proud of his power and achievements. He is contemptuous of other lesser mortals. He challenges all the powerful and mighty persons to look upon his wonderful feats. They will get lost in deep despair. He considers himself a demi-god. They will be dazzled by his

achievements and overawed by his power and authority. The 'sneer of cold command' on the face of the statue tells much about his character.

- (g) Through his famous sonnet 'Ozymandias', Shelley wants to convey a definite message to his readers. Time is all-powerful. The sickle of time spares none, not even the 'king of kings' like Ozymandias. All worldly power, pride, glory and grandeur are a nine-day wonder. His vain attempt of perpetuating his memory proved futile. His statue lies shattered and broken half-sunk in the sand. There is nothing else but boundless sand all around it. Only the art of the sculptor who mocked all those passions which are stamped on lifeless stones, survive the ravages of time.

Q6. Identify and rewrite the lines from the poem spoken by the narrator, the traveller and Ozymandias:

The Narrator: _____

The Traveller: _____

Ozymandias: _____

Ans. The Narrator

- I met a traveller from an ancient land.
- Nothing else except the ruins of that colossal statue remains. All around the ruins of that huge broken statue, only endless, bare and level sand is spreading far away.

The Traveller

- I saw two huge and trunkless legs of stone standing in the desert. Near them, a broken face lies half buried in the sand. There are signs of contempt, indifference and authority on the face. These expressions still survive on the stone. They prove that the sculptor had well read and understood those passions that arose in the heart of Ozymandias. The hand of the sculptor had reproduced those passions exactly on the lifeless stones.

• Ozymandias

My name is Ozymandias and I am the king of kings. O, powerful and mighty people of the world and the Almighty! Look upon my wonderful feats and achievements! If you look at them you will be shamefaced and will give yourselves to utter despair.

Q7. Shelley's sonnet follows the traditional structure of the fourteen-line Italian sonnet, featuring an opening octave, or set of eight lines, that presents a conflict or dilemma, followed by a sestet, or set of six lines, that offers some resolution or commentary upon the proposition introduced in the octave. Read the poem carefully and complete the following table on the structure of the poem.

	Rhyme scheme	Theme
Octave		
Sestet		

Ans.	Rhyme scheme	Theme
<i>Octave</i>	ab, ac, ad, ea	Shattered statue of Ozymandias in the desert and signs of arrogance and contempt on his face
<i>Sestet</i>	ab, ac, ca	Ozymandias attempt to immortalise himself fails. The ravages of time shatter his statue into pieces.

Q8. Complete the table listing the poetic devices used by Shelley in Ozymandias.

Poetic device	Lines from the poem
Alliteration	<i>... and sneer of cold command</i>
Synecdoche (substitution of a part to stand for the whole, or the whole to stand for a part)	<i>the hand that mock'd them</i>

Ans.	Poetic device	Lines from the poem
	Alliteration	<i>... and sneer of cold command</i> ... king of kings ... boundless and bare ... sand stretch cold command
	Metaphor	
	Synecdoche (substitution of a part to stand for the whole, or the whole to stand for a part)	<i>the hand that mock'd them</i> the heart that fed

Q9. Imagine that Ozymandias comes back to life and as he sees the condition of his statue, realisation dawns on him and he pens his thoughts in a diary. As Ozymandias, make this diary entry in about 150 words. You could begin like this: I thought I was the mightiest of all but ...

Ans. I thought I was the mightiest of all human beings on this earth. I was drunk with power and authority. I had everything—glory and grandeur. I used to have contempt and arrogance for others. I considered myself a demi-god. But I wanted to perpetuate my memory for the coming generations. I wanted to erect a grand memorial for myself. A great sculptor was employed to make a unique statue that would overawe and dazzle the people of all ages. Even the mighty and powerful would feel belittled when they came to know of my great achievements and heroic feats.

They say man proposes and God disposes. What can be more painful than to see your dreams shattered to pieces before your own eyes? Where is the king of kings now? His face is lying half buried in the sand and shattered into pieces. The ravages of times have shattered the pride and arrogance. And now what is left of the man who was feared and dreaded even by the kings? Only two trunkless legs stand in the desert. They are ironical reminders that all power, pride, glory and grandeur are short-lived. This is a lesson not only for an arrogant ruler like me but also for the whole humanity.

Q10. 'Ozymandias' and 'Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments' are on Time. Compare the two sonnets in terms of the way in which Time is treated by the poets. Write your answer in about 150 words.

Ans. Both the poems, 'Ozymandias' and 'Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments' focus on the ravages of Time. In 'Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments', Shakespeare mocks at the marble and gilded monuments, memorials and statues built by the princes, rulers and the rich. They raise these memorials to show their power, authority, wealth and grandeur. They want to perpetuate their memory for the posterity. It is a vain attempt to become immortal or to keep their memory alive in the minds and hearts of the coming generation. However, the ravages of time and the agents of destruction like wasteful wars and tumults destroy, damage and deteriorate such buildings and monuments. Shakespeare wants to highlight that 'the powerful rhyme' outlives all such worldly glories and grandeurs.

P.B. Shelley's 'Ozymandias' also highlights that the sickle of time spares none. Once all-powerful ruler, 'the king of kings', Ozymandias wanted to overawe the present and future generations by his authority and achievements. He met a tragic and ironical fate. The ravages of time shattered his pride and his statue and face lie broken and buried in the sand. Such tall claims and show of power, glory and grandeur meet their tragic end with the passage of time. So, both the poets highlight that all worldly power, glory and grandeur meet their destruction and deterioration at the hands of all-powerful time.

MORE QUESTIONS SOLVED

I. SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (30–40 Words)

Q1. What is a sonnet? How does P.B. Shelly develop the main thought in the sonnet? [V. Imp.]

Ans. A sonnet is a poem of fourteen lines with a structured rhyme scheme. Each line contains ten syllables. The single idea runs throughout the poem. The idea is that all power, pelf, glory and grandeur are short-lived. The ravages of time spare none. The 'king of kings', Ozymandias's dream of dazzling and overawing the world with his authority and feats. He lies shattered and buried in the boundless and bare sand of the desert.

Q2. Who did the poet meet and what did he tell him?

Ans. The poet met a traveller. He had returned from an ancient land. He told the poet of seeing two huge trunkless legs of stone standing in the desert. Near those legs a shattered face was lying half sunk in the sand. The face of the broken statue showed signs of contempt, cold command and authority on it.

Q3. Describe the passions that were stamped on the lifeless stone of the broken statue of Ozymandias. [V. Imp.]

Ans. The huge statue of Ozymandias lie shattered and sunk in the sand of the desert. But the art of the sculptor still survives on the lifeless stones. On his face there are expressions of scorn and hostility. The expression of cold authority is clearly visible on the face. The lip is wrinkled and raised in contempt. It looked as if the man whose statue it was made was drunk with power, pelf and authority.

Q4. Describe the workmanship of the sculptor who made the huge statue of Ozymandias.

Ans. The sculptor who made that huge statue of Ozymandias seemed to be a great workman. The quality of his workmanship is still alive on the features and expressions on the face of the statue. The wrinkled lip and the facial expressions of scorn, contempt and hostility tell everything about the man. They clearly tell that the sculptor had very well read all those passions that arose in Ozymandias's heart. His hand stamped those feelings and passions exactly as he saw them on the lifeless stones.

Q5. What was written on the pedestal? [V. Imp.]

Ans. On the pedestal or at the base was written a brief description of the man whose statue it was. It was the statue of Ozymandias. He claimed himself to be 'the king of kings'. He was drunk with power, pelf and authority. He challenged the mighty and powerful people of the world to look upon his great feats and achievements. They would be over-awed. They would be lost in deep despair. They would feel too small and insignificant in his comparison.

Q6. What impression do you form of Ozymandias after reading the poem?

Ans. Ozymandias was a man who was drunk with power, pelf and authority. He had nothing but contempt for others. He considered them just insignificant mortals. He claimed himself to be the 'king of kings'. He was mighty proud of his great works and wonderful achievements. He threw a challenge to all the mighty and powerful persons of the world to compare themselves with him. They would be overawed by his great deeds and works. They would feel so insignificant and be in deep despair.

Q7. Where has gone all the pride, power and pelf that Ozymandias was so proud of? What does the poet mean when he says 'Nothing beside remains'?

Ans. The ravages of time have destroyed Ozymandias' dream to overawe humanity with his power, authority, glory and grandeur. The statue and the face of the 'king of kings' lie shattered and sunk in the sand. Time and agents of destruction have reduced him to dust. Nothing has remained of his glory and grandeur. Only boundless and bare sand is spreading all around his broken statue in the desert.

Q8. What is the message that P.B. Shelley wants to convey through 'Ozymandias'? [V. Imp.]

Ans. Through his famous sonnet 'Ozymandias', Shelley wants to convey a definite message to humanity and his readers. All power, pelf, glory and grandeur are only a nine-day wonder. The ravages of time spare none—not even the likes of Ozymandias. The 'king of kings' who wanted to overawe lesser mortals with his power, authority and great achievements, now lies shattered and buried in the sand. Nothing remains of his power, glory and grandeur. Only boundless and bare sand is seen all around his broken and shattered statue in the desert.

Q9. Describe the poetic devices used by Shelley in 'Ozymandias'. [V. Imp.]

Ans. 'Ozymandias' is a very famous sonnet of P. B. Shelley. In the octave, he develops the idea and in the sestet, he reaches the conclusion that the ravages of time spare none. The use of alliteration heightens the poetic effect. 'Cold command', 'king of kings', 'boundless and bare' etc. are some of the examples of alliteration. The use of 'Synecdoche', substitution of a part to stand for the whole is effectively used in 'the hand that mock'd them' and 'the heart that fed'. The use of metaphors like 'cold command' also enrich the poetic effect.

II. VALUE-BASED LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (80-100 Words)

Q1. The lesson we can learn from 'Ozymandias' is that the ravages of time spare none and reduce all worldly power, pelf and glory to dust. Describe the main idea developed in the sonnet by P. B. Shelley and the message that he wants to convey through 'Ozymandias'. [V. Imp.]

Ans. 'Ozymandias' is one of the most famous sonnets written by Shelley. The main idea is developed in the fourteen lines of the sonnet systematically. In the octave, the poet describes how he met a traveller who came from an ancient land. Then he describes what the traveller saw there. He saw two huge trunkless legs of stone standing in the sand. Near them lay a shattered face half-buried in the sand. There were signs of contempt and 'cold command' on the face of the statue. The man was haughty, arrogant and authoritative. The workmanship of the sculptor was of quite a high quality. It seems he had well read the passions arising in the heart of the person before stamping them exactly as they were on the stone. Shelley concludes the message in the sestet of the sonnet. The message is very clear. Time is all-powerful and spares none. All worldly power, pelf, glory and grandeur are just a nine-day wonder. Ozymandias used to call himself 'the king of kings'. He was mighty, proud of his wonderful feats and achievements. He thought himself a demi-god. But the ravages of time reduced Ozymandias's attempt to outlive the posterity to dust. His broken statue and shattered face lie half buried in the sand. Nothing else has remained but only boundless and bare sand all around the shattered statue.

Q2. Describe how Ozymandias's dream of overawing and dazzling the posterity with his mighty deeds and achievements was reduced to dust. What picture of Ozymandias do you form after reading Shelley's sonnet 'Ozymandias'? What lesson can we draw from the fate of Ozymandias?

Ans. Ozymandias seemed to be a typical despot of an 'ancient' land. The description given by the traveller proves the point that the king considered himself far above than all other mortals of his race. He loved to call himself 'the king of kings'. He was drunk with power and authority. He had nothing but sneers of 'cold command' for others. Ozymandias was proud of his mighty deeds and wonderful achievements. He challenged the mighty and the powerful to look upon his marvellous feats, his glory and grandeur. Those who tried to do so only met with deep dismay and despair. Ozymandias' attempt to perpetuate his memory for the future generations proved only a false dream. The ravages of time reduced the symbols of his power, authority, glory and grandeur only to dust. This is the lesson that we can learn from Ozymandias' futile efforts to immortalise himself and his memory. The statue of the 'king of kings' Ozymandias lies in pieces with his shattered face half-buried in the sand.

We can form a clear picture of Ozymandias from the description of the traveller and the words written on the pedestal. He emerges as a powerful despot. He was highly conscious of his power and position and placed himself far above all other lesser mortals. Such an authoritative and proud personality had no room for any soft, milder and sensitive human feelings.

Q3. Suppose Ozymandias comes back to life and revisits the site where once got his grand statue erected during his reign. Describe how he weeps at the picture of decay and destruction contrasted with the grandeur and glories when he was 'the king of kings'. He pens his thoughts in a diary. Reproduce his thoughts in about 100 words in your own language. [Imp.]

Ans. Those were great and glorious times! 'Ozymandias!' Even this word was enough to make people tremble and bow in respect. The rich and the mighty looked upon my glorious feats and heroic deeds and were lost in deep despair. The commoners trembled. The rich and the powerful bowed. The fate and fortune seemed to dance to my tunes. I wanted my memory to be alive even after my death. So I employed the best sculptor of the kingdom to erect the grand statue to perpetuate my memory for the coming generations.

And now. O God! How pathetic and heart-rending the sight is! 'The king of kings' lies shattered and buried in the sand. The ravages of time have reduced all symbols of my power, authority, glory and grandeur to dust. Only two huge legs of stand in the desert. The 'head' that used to bow thousands of heads in submission is not traceable anywhere. Only the half shattered and half-buried face mocks at my fate. And nothing else is left except the boundless and bare sand all around.

TEST YOUR SKILLS

I. SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Who did the poet meet and what did he tell the poet?
2. Describe what did the travel see in the desert?
3. Describe the facial expressions of the broken statue.
4. Describe the workmanship of the sculptor who carved out that statue. How did he stamp those passions on lifeless stones which arose in the heart of Ozymandias?
5. What was written on the pedestal of the statue?
6. What picture do you form of Ozymandias after reading the poem?
7. What is a sonnet? How did Shelley develop his main idea in Ozymandias?
8. Describe the message that P. B. Shelley wants to convey through this poem to the readers.

II. VALUE-BASED LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Describe the picture of Ozymandias that emerges in your mind after reading the poem. How was his dream of perpetuating his memory reduced to dust?
2. Describe a sonnet. How did Shelley develop the main idea in the octave and the Sestet? Give two examples of poetic devices used in the poem.