

KUVEMPU

The poet describes nature and tries to concentrate on a few divine aspects as per his analysis. He focuses on the concept of a river trying to negate its existence while it merges in the ocean or sea and how beautiful the entire atmosphere is when the waves reach the shore forming a surf. On the other hand, the tender sunshine is spread on the greenery and this beautiful spectacle is equated to a heavenly experience on earth.

Ans:(b) on earth

13. According to the poet..... Makes this earth heaven. March - 2018

- (a) heavenly nymphs
 - (b) gods
 - (c) gentle sun
- Ans:**(c) gentle sun

14. 'In the splendour of harvest and of moonlight. Heaven lies all over!' the phrase refers to March - 2019

- (a) harvest and moonlight are no match to heaven
 - (b) splendour is only in heaven
 - (c) heaven can be seen in the harvest and moonlight
- Ans:**(c) heaven can be seen in the harvest and moonlight

II. Answer the following questions in a paragraph of 80 – 100 words each:

III. Answer the following questions in about 200 words:

1. How is nature presented in the poem, 'Heaven, If You Are Not Here On Earth'?

Ans: The poet says that man can become god, nymph and make this earth as heaven, only if he is in union with the nature. The poet personifies the entities from the nature. He hears the stream roaring, and sees the sunshine leaning. The poet perhaps wants to attribute human qualities component of human life. The poet continues to personify nature and mentions how man in communion with nature is responsible for heaven to be on earth. In the splendor of the harvest and in the beauty of moonlight on the nature which form important we can see heaven.

2. Describe the beauty in nature that makes the earth a heavenly place?

Ans:The poet brings out his rationalistic outlook of heaven. He suggests that one should perceive divinity and enjoy heavenly bliss in the company of nature itself. Hence the poet argues that we need not to seek heaven after death. We can enjoy heavenly bliss in look at nature on this earth itself. The poet tries to introduce us to the different forms of heaven that exists on earth. The poet emphatically states that the bliss that one experiences while looking at the streams that are leaping down, roaring from the top of the hills, the waves that come rolling across the sea carrying surf at their edges, the tender rays of sunlight falling on the the sprawling green garden and the gentle sun warming up the earth make this earth a heavenly place.

3. Why does the poet feel that earth is more beautiful than heaven?

Ans:According to the poet there is no heaven in reality, and strongly believes that Heaven and earth are not separate entities. The poet refers to our beliefs about 'God' and 'heavenly nymphs'. He expresses his conviction, that there is no God and it is man himself who is God. He firmly believes that we ourselves are the nymphs, and the nymphs are to be nowhere else but on this earth only. Heaven and God are merely of man's imaginations. He tries to tell us, the different forms of heaven that exists on earth like the green forests, the stream that leap down the hills, the waves that roll across the sea, the moonlight and splendor of

harvest appears more beautiful than imaginary descriptions of man. Hence he suggests that one must enjoy the pleasures of heaven looking at nature.

4. How does the poet break the myth of heaven in this poem?

Ans:In this poem, Kuvempu urges us to understand the power and beauty of nature which we see through our eyes. The poet considers concepts like 'God', 'nymphs' and 'heaven' as myths are created by humans. In the poem, the poet is quite radical in his approach that he is denying the existence of gods which we adore. He strongly feels that God resides in everybody and we ourselves are gods. He believes that only humans as gods live on this heavenly earth. For him heaven is not something beyond the boundaries of this world, since earth itself possesses all that the so called heaven promises. In order to break the illusion of heaven in man's mind, he presents before us charming sights of nature and argues that nothing can be more heavenly than forms of nature which lie all over. In the first two lines, he makes a direct address to nature and declares that if heaven does not exist on the earth where else can it be. He justifies his statement referring to the streams that leap down roaring from the top of the hills, the rolling surf at the edge of waves, the tender rays of sunlight falling on the green garden, thus sun makes earth a heaven.

5. How does the poem celebrate the power of the poet?

Ans:The poet tells the reader that the poets who enjoy such heavenly sights imbibe the beauty of nature and spill the nectar of heaven on earth and celebrates the joys of heaven through his poetry. The poet tells that if at all there exists an entity called heaven, it exists only on this earth. The poet presents before the reader's beautiful imageries of nature. In the last stanza, the poet states that one visualizes scenes of heaven lying all over in the splendour of harvest and of moonlight. He concludes the poem celebrating poetic talent. Poetry is the rhetoric act. Poet brings beauty by using right poetic devices which surely hypnotize the readers. Thus we have been enjoying reading poems. There is a famous saying that poet sees what can't be seen by sun, it means poet has such a vision that he can go beyond the capacity of sun. The poet can only bring the heavenly world in front of the readers. Thus poet tells that poet imbibes and spills the song of nectar over the readers. The nectar itself makes the works eternal and those works pleases the minds who read. Therefore, the poet says that poet creates heaven on earth.

6. How according to the speaker can we create heaven on earth in the poem 'Heaven if you are not here on earth'?

Or

How, according to the speaker, can we create heaven on earth? March - 2015

Or

Human effort alone can create heaven on earth. How is this brought out in 'Heaven if you are not here on earth'?

Or

‘Heaven can be created on Earth’, Justify with the Poet’s point of view. March - 2020

Ans: In this poem, the poet Kuvempu stresses and warns his readers gently that heaven is not somewhere in the skies but here on this beautiful earth. He gently questions us, as a poet, if heaven is not here on our earth where else it can be. He wonders if we the human beings with all our traits of humanism, compassion, love and forgivingness cannot be Gods, who else can we think God is. He points us to watch the beautiful streams rushing past and the rolling bubbles of water can be seen and the soft sun lighting our green gardens, especially, the radiant sun make, us feel that the earth is heaven. He asks us to view heaven when the gentle moon spills milky white light, during the full moon on the heaps of grains harvested and think that heaven is here on the earth. He tells us that a poet inspired by all this natural beauty, writes beautiful poetry which are as sweet as nectar. By writing such poetry the poet creates heaven on earth or inspires us to think that earth is like heaven.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- ❖ The speaker says that if heaven is not on earth, it is not elsewhere.
- ❖ If the people themselves are not gods, there are no Gods
- ❖ If the people are not nymphs, they are no nymphs
- ❖ Murmuring stream, the surf at the end of the waves, the tender sunshine in the green gardens and gentle sun—all make this earth heaven.
- ❖ Heaven is scattered everywhere in the form of harvest and moonlight
- ❖ The poet drinks the nectar of song and creates real heaven on earth.

RECAPITULATION:

- The theme of nature and beauty
- Transformation of human beings into gods
- Developing divine qualities
- Changing the earth into heaven
- Beautiful objects of nature—roaring stream, rolling surf
- Harvest and moonlight
- Poet creating heaven through sweet songs

EXERCISE:

ONE MARK

1. When according to the speaker can there be no Gods in 'Heaven, if you are not on Earth'?
2. Who can create heaven on earth in 'Heaven if you are not on Earth'?
3. According to the speaker of 'Heaven, if you are not on Earth' heaven is.....
a) On earth b) not on earth c) beyond earth.
4. does create 'Heaven if you are not on Earth'?
a) Man b) poet c) God

FOUR MARKS

1. How according to the speaker does one find heaven on earth in 'Heaven, if you are not on Earth'?
2. Describe how the poem, 'Heaven, if you are not on Earth' visualizes heaven in nature.
3. Why does the speaker of 'Heaven, if you are not on Earth' say that heaven is right here on earth?
4. 'One's life is how one looks at it, bring out the significance of this with reference to the poem, 'Heaven, if you are not on Earth'.

‘Instruction does much, but encouragement everything’.