

Poem - 10.

Heaven, If you are not here
On Earth.

Comprehension I

1. According to the poet 'heaven' is
a. On Earth.

2. Who creates heaven on Earth?
The poet creates heaven on Earth.

3. The poet finds god in
a. nature / man.

4. What does the line 'Heaven lies all over' suggest?
The line 'Heaven lies all over' suggest that the beauty of heaven lies in the splendour of harvest and the moonlit night. The nature provides beauty and happiness and we feel like we are in heaven.

5. What are the different forms of ^{nature} heaven that make earth a heaven?

The different forms of nature are the roaring stream, the rolling surf at the edge of waves, the tender sunshine, the sun, the harvest and the moonlight make this earth a heaven.

Comprehension II

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

OR

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

K.V. Puttappa is widely known by the pen name Kuvempu. He is the first among the eight recipients of the Jnanpith Award for Kannada, also the second after M. Govinda Pai among Kannada poets to be revered as 'Rashtrakavi', a national poet. He was conferred 'Padmaribushana' by Govt of India and has penned the State Anthem 'Jaya Bharata Jananiya Janijate'.

This poem is the English version of 'Swargave Bhoomiyelinadine Neenu' written by Kuvempu and translated by Prof. C. Naganna. In this 14 lined poem, the poet addresses Heaven in the first two lines. He states that if Heaven does not exist on Earth, where else can it be. The heaven is believed to be the beauty of happiness and the happiness is a state of mind. We can presume — happiness elsewhere like our mind can feel the presence of heaven in the roaring stream that rushes fast the rolling surf at the edge of waves, which gives us a pleasure to mind and light, which refreshes us, the tender sunshine which fall on the verdant garden which tells the beauty of heaven, makes the earth a wonderful

Heaven. Heaven is there in the splendour of harvest and of moonlight.

The happiness which we get from the mother nature is itself heaven. Natural beauties are much more pleasing to our eyes, minds. It's our duty to protect our earth to make it look like heaven. Hence the poet opines that it is not necessary to search for heaven anywhere else because it is on the earth as the poet is inspired by the nature, he wants himself and others to imagine heaven on this earth itself. Natural things appear to be more beautiful than imaginary things, when one enjoys and experiences.

Comprehension III

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

The poet considers concepts like - 'God', 'nymphs' and 'heaven' as myths which are not tangible entities but are only figments of man's imagination. He says that if at all heaven exists it exists only on this earth. To break the myth of heaven in man's mind he presents before us charming sights of nature and argues that nothing can be more heavenly than these forms of nature. 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, the waves and the sunlight.

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

Kuvempu hails from the land of verdant garden in malnad of Karnataka. His poetic talent and power of imagination conceived the greatest ideals in literary expressions. The poem is short but rich in imagery.

The poet defines heaven all together in a different perspective. The poem throws a new light on the idea of heaven. We realise that one's happiness is not an alien thing but a state of mind and soul that one has to consciously cultivate. Heaven is on the earth, we are the gods and nymph with the power of creations. He creates the earth as heaven and human being as gods and nymphs, he proceeds saying that heaven lies in the beauty of running stream, rolling surf of waves, the tender sunlight leaning on the verdant garden, gentle sunshine, the splendour harvest of moonlight, all these makes the earth a heaven. More than this the poet has extra-ordinary power to create the heaven by imbibing and spilling the song of nectar on earth. He can overflow his powerful feelings through his imagination. No one can imagine than the poet. He can create a hell to heaven and heaven to earth. In this way this poem celebrates the power of the poet.