

THE ORPHAN GIRL

Her hair was black as a raven's wings,
Her cheek the tulip's hue did wear,
Her voice was soft as when night winds sing,
Her brow was as a moonbeam fair;
Her sire had joined the wake of war;-
The battle-shock, the shout, and scar
He knew, and gained a glorious grave-
Such is the guerdon of the brave!-
Her anguished mother's suffering heart
Could not endure a widow's part;
She sunk beneath her soul's distress,
And left her infant parentless.-

She hath no friend on this cold, bleak earth,
To give her a shelter, a home, and a hearth;
Through life's dreary desert alone she must
wend,
For alas! the wretched have never a friend!
And should she stray from virtue's way,
The world will scorn, and its scorn can slay.
Ah! Shame hath enough to wring the breast
With a weight of sorrow and guilt oppres'd;
But oh! 'tis coldly cruel to wound
The bosom whose blood must gush unbound.
No tear is so bright as the tear that flows
For erring woman's unpitied woes;
And blest be forever his honoured name
Who shelters an orphan from sorrow and
shame!



Bengali Translation Of the Poem

Her hair was black as a raven's wings,
তার চুল গুলো ছিল দাঁড় কাকের ডানার মত কালো,
Her cheek the tulip's hue did wear,
তার গালে টিউলিপ ফুলের আভা ছিল
Her voice was soft as when night winds sing,
তার কণ্ঠস্বর ছিল রাতের বাতাসের মতো মৃদু
Her brow was as a moonbeam fair;
তার ক্র ছিল চাঁদের জোৎস্নার মত সুন্দর
Her sire had joined the wake of war;-
তার বাবা যুদ্ধের শুরুতে যুদ্ধে যোগ দিয়েছিল
The battle-shock, the shout, and scar
যুদ্ধের অভিঘাত, চিৎকার, ক্ষত
He knew, and gained a glorious grave-
সে লাভ করেছিল, এবং অর্জন করেছিল গৌরবময়
সমাধি
Such is the guerdon of the brave!-
এটিই হলো সাহসীর পুরস্কার
Her anguished mother's suffering heart
মেয়েটির বেদনার্ত মায়ের যন্ত্রণা ক্লীর্ণ হৃদয়
Could not endure a widow's part;
সহ্য করতে পারলো না বিধবার ভূমিকা
She sunk beneath her soul's distress,

তিনি আত্মার বেদনার তলে নিমজ্জিত হলেন
And left her infant parentless.-
এবং তার সন্তান/ মেয়েকে অনাথ করে রেখে গেলেন।

She hath no friend on this cold, bleak earth,

মেয়েটির কোনো বন্ধু ছিল না এই নির্ভূর, নিরানন্দ
পৃথিবীত

To give her a shelter, a home, and a hearth;

তাকে একটি আশ্রয়, বাসস্থান, এবং উষ্ণতা দেওয়ার
জন্য।

Through life's dreary desert alone she must
wend,

জীবনের বিষন্ন মরুময় পথে তাকে একা চলতে হবে

For alas! the wretched have never a friend!

কারণ, হায়! হতভাগা দের কোনো বন্ধু ও থাকে না!

And should she stray from virtue's way,

এবং সতীত্বের পথ থেকে তার কি সরে আসা উচিত হবে

The world will scorn, and its scorn can slay.

তাহলে গোটা পৃথিবী তাকে ঘৃণা/ বদনাম করবে এবং
এই ঘৃণা/ বদনাম তাকে হত্যা করবে

Ah! Shame hath enough to wring the breast

কারণ তার যথেষ্ট লজ্জা আছে যা মোচড়/ ব্যাথা দেবে
তার হৃদয় কে

With a weight of sorrow and guilt oppres'd;

যে হৃদয় দুঃখ এবং চাপা অপরাধে ভারাক্রান্ত

But oh! 'tis coldly cruel to wound

কিন্তু এই নির্ভূর নির্ভূরতা আঘাত করবে

The bosom whose blood must gush unbound.

তার বক্ষ/ হৃদয় কে যার রক্ত অবাধে নির্গত হবে

No tear is so bright as the tear that flows

কোনো অশ্রুই হয় না এতটা উজ্জ্বল সেই অশ্রুর মত যা
নির্গত হয়

For erring woman's unpitied woes;

বিপথ/ ভুলপথ গামী মহিলার করুণাহীন যন্ত্রণা থেকে

And blest be for ever his honoured name

এবং সেই পুরুষের সন্মানিত নাম চিরদিন গৌরবান্বিত
হয়ে থাকবে

Who shelters an orphan from sorrow and
shame!

যে আশ্রয় দেবে এই অনাথ শিশু কে তার দুঃখ এবং
লজ্জা থেকে!

WORD-MEANINGS

Brow -eye brow.

Sire-- the founder of a family.

Guerdon --Reward or payment.

Anguish --extreme distress.

Endure-- Continue to live. through hard-ship.

Hath --Has.

Wend --direct one's way or course.

Wretched-- very poor, helpless

Stray-- move about aimlessly.

Scorn-- lack of respect with dislike.

Wring-- twist and compress as if in pain.

Gush -- rapid flow.

Erring --Capable of making mistakes.

Unpitied-- without mercy or pity.

Blest-- highly favored or fortunate.

Bleak-- no hope, Unpleasantly cold.

Hearth—it is a place within room where a fire can be built to comfort oneself in winter

Answer: The girl's mother died grief-stricken not enduring the widow's part due to her husband's death in the battle field.

Questions

1. How was the hair of the orphan girl?

Answer: The hair of the orphan girl was as black as the raven's wings.

2. How was her cheek?

Answer: The cheeks of the orphan girl had the hue of tulip flower on them.

3. To what was the voice of the girl compared? How was her voice?

Answer: The voice of the girl was compared to the singing of night's wind.

Her voice was as soft as the sound of the night's wind.

4. How were the eyebrows of the girl?

Answer: The girl's eyebrows had the beauty of moonbeam.

5. "And left her infant parentless"—How did the girl become an orphan/ parentless

Answer: The girl's father died in the battle field and her mother died grief-stricken. So, she became an orphan.

6. Who was the father of the girl? / How did her father die?

Answer: The girl's father was a soldier who died in the battle field.

7. How did her mother die?

8. What is the guerdon/ prize of the brave in the battle field?

Answer: The soldier who shows bravery in the battle field, gets a glorious grave and it is his guerdon.

9. "She sunk beneath her soul's distress

And left her infant parentless."—Who sunk beneath her soul's distress and why?

Answer: The girl's mother mentioned in the poem The Orphan Girl sunk beneath her soul's distress because her husband died in the battle field.

10. "..... Oh she seemed

Marked for much woe in this unpitiful world!

Poor Friendless wanderer"—About whom was this remark made? Why was the world unpitiful to her? Why was she a "friendless wanderer"?

Answer: This remark was made about a girl who became orphan at a very early age.

The world seemed unpitiful to the orphan girl because after her parents' death nobody gave her shelter, nobody helped her, even spoke to her.

No man gave the orphan girl shelter, food as a friend. So she became a friendless wanderer.

11. How was the world/ earth to the orphan girl?

Answer: The world/ earth seemed to the orphan girl unpitying, cold, bleak and a desert.

12. Why did the world/ earth seem unpitying, cold, bleak and a desert to the girl?

Answer: After her parents' death, nobody gave her shelter, nobody helped her, even spoke to her. So, the world/ earth seemed unpitying, cold, bleak and a desert to the girl.

13. "Through life's dreary desert alone she must wend"—About whom has this remark been made? Why does her life seem like a dreary desert? Why must she wend alone?

Answer: This remark has been made about an orphan girl in the poem The Orphan Girl.

Life seems like a dreary desert to her because after her parents' death, nobody gives her shelter, nobody helped her, even speaks to her and so she must wend alone.

14. "For alas! the wretched have never a friend!"—Who is the wretched person here and why?

Answer: In the poem The Orphan Girl by Derozio, an orphan girl is the wretched person here because according to the poet, one who becomes parentless, never gets a friend to help her, to give her shelter or even to speak to her.

15. "And should she stray from virtue's way"—About whom was this remark made? Why should she stray from virtue's way?

Answer: This remark has been made about an orphan girl in the poem The Orphan Girl by Derozio.

After her parents' death, no friend came ahead to give her shelter, food, even to speak to her. So the poet thought that the girl might stray from her virtue's way to earn her livelihood.

16. What is meant by "stray from virtue's way"?

Answer: "Stray from virtue's way" means doing something illegal i.e. prostitution to earn livelihood when the little girl became parentless and none gave her shelter, food.

17. "The world will scorn"—Whom will the world scorn and why? What will happen if the world scorns her?

Answer: The world will scorn the orphan girl if she strays from her virtue's way to earn her livelihood.

If the world scorns her, she will die of pain and shame.

18. "Ah! Shame hath enough to wring the breast

With a weight of sorrow and guilt oppressed"—Who had enough shame to wring her breast? Explain.

Answer: An orphan girl mentioned in the poem The Orphan Girl by Derozio, had enough shame to wring her breast.

When getting parentless, nobody came ahead to the girl with helping hand to give her shelter, warmth, food, the girl could not stray from her virtue's way to earn livelihood because she had enough shame to pain her heart. It would also feel her sorrow and guilt.

19. “No tear is so bright.....” —Why is the tear so bright?

Answer: When a woman gets limitless pain and nobody pities her pain, her tears on her cheeks become very bright. Here such an orphan girl is described in the poem The Orphan Girl by Derozio.

20. “And blest be forever his honoured name” —Whose name will be blessed forever with honour? / What message does the poet convey at the very end of the poem?

Answer: Who will give the orphan girl a shelter in her misery and who will recover her sorrow and shame, his name will be blessed with honour forever.

21. What will happen if anyone gives the orphan girl a shelter?

Answer: If anyone gives the orphan girl a shelter in her misery, his name will be blessed with honour forever.

References:-

<https://www.anitbarui.in/2020/08/bengali-meaning-of-poem-orphan-girl-by-DEROZIO.html?m=1>