

Snake - D.H. Lawrence

SAR

1. Why did the poet feel honoured in spite of being afraid?

2. The poet seemed to be very modest & polite towards the snake. He regarded the snake as a guest & not as an ~~inv~~ intruder, & felt honoured in its presence in his garden. He revered the snake as a creation of God & not as a venomous evil.

3. Explain the line, "Was it perversity that I longed to talk to him?"

1. The poet asks that if it was his presence which actually compelled him to talk to the snake. The poet has mixed feelings about the snake's presence. He feels honoured but also wants to get rid of him.

2. Why does the poet call his sin a 'pettiness'?

1. The poet calls his deed an act of pettiness because it was not at all necessary for the poet to kill the snake. It was an impulsive mean act which was done in the spur of the moment. The snake was harmless, but was attacked by the poet as he was ruled by his voice of education.

3. Why does the poet must expiate?

2. The poet moment the poet hits the snake; he feels the urge to expiate for his pettiness. The use of the word

expiation suggests that he looks upon his act as a violation of a religious bond.

50: Why did the poet throw the log at the snake?

Ans. His education told him to kill them because the snakes of Sicily were known to be poisonous and dangerous. It guided him to take a stick & finish him off to prove his bravery & manhood.

Q2. The poet has a dual attitude towards the snake. Why does he experience conflicting emotions on seeing the snake?

Ans. The poet is experiencing the mixed emotions about the snake's presence. He has his own valid reasons to spare the snake. But his prudence says that all snakes are noxious hence they must be smothered down. However, the poet admires the reaction of Epd. The conflict between the poet's conscience forced him to get act promptly, much against his wishes.

~~70: What did the poet~~

70. How does the poet experience conflict despite the day & the atmosphere when he saw the snake?

Ans. It was the hot day of Sicilian July & Mount Etna, famous volcano, was throwing smoke. The poet was in pyjamas, then snake came from burning sawels to

quench his thirst.

QA / VBO.

Q8 What ideas & thoughts come to poet's mind when he finds a poisonous snake drinking water at his water-trough?

Ans When the poet went to water-trough to take water in his pitcher, he saw a snake drinking water like cattle & felt honoured. It looked majestic to the poet. He admired it but realised that it was poisonous & decided to attack it. He picked up a log & threw it at the snake. But the snake escaped. The poet felt a sense of cowardice, perversity & humility. He regretted for his action - felt he would have to expiate for his moral lapse.

Q9 "The poem teaches us the lesson that to move onwards one need to forget age old prejudices & love nature & its creation fully."
Explain

Ans In the poem, the poet treated the snakes as an equal. He didn't consider other species to be inferior to him. The fine-looking creatures, i.e. the snake never threatened or harmed the poet. However, the poet's voice of education forced him to attack the snake as the snakes are considered to be venomous. The poet wants us to learn that one must respect the existence of others. We must learn & let

Others live peacefully

102: How were the poet's beliefs regarding snakes conditioned by society?

Ans. Snakes are considered venomous creatures. By behaving companionately, considering the snake as a fellow creature, a glorious being as God himself, the poet had given a sense of false security to the snake. But when the voice of his education reminded him to hit the snake, the snake convulsed in an undignified haste & slithered away in the deep dark hole. The poet immediately repented his act of cowardice. It reminded him of the proverbial albatross. The poet's act of mercy at one point clashing with his act of violence, deliberately or by chance is an irony.

112: Why does the poet make an allusion to the albatross?

A: The poet makes an allusion to the albatross because just like the ancient mariner killed the innocent albatross, the poet killed the snake & lamented for it. He seeks redemption for his heinous act. In both the cases, the humans were not even harmed but still they killed the innocent creatures.

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12: Where did the snake come from?

Ans: The snake came from ~~the~~ a fissure in the earth wall near the water trough.

22: How does the poet describe the snake's movement?

Ans: The snake trailed softly to the water trough & reared his throat peacefully to drink water.

30: Identify the poetic device in 3 lines.

Ans: Metaphor

132: The voice of my - - - of.

12: What does the poet mean by the voice of his education?

Ans: The poet refers to the sense of right & wrong that he had developed with the help of education.

22: Identify the poetic device in line 3

Ans: Alliteration - black, black
Repetition - black, black

32: What did the inner voices of the poet tell him to do?

Ans: The inner voices of the poet told him to pick up a stick & kill the snake.

142: And truly - - - sacred earth.

12: Why was the poet afraid?

Ans: The poet was afraid because of the presence of a snake at his water trough.

22: Why does the poet refer to the snake's hole as 'secret earth'?

24. Snakes are found hiding in holes deep inside the earth which are, away from human settlements & observation.

23. Explain the term 'Hospitality'.

Ans. Friendly reception & treatment of guests.

15Q. Someone --- waiting.

12. Explain 'second comer'?

Ans. Second comer means, who came after.

2Q. Whose water-trough is it?

Ans. It is poet's water-trough.

3Q. Why must he wait?

Ans. He has to wait as there was the snake already near the water-trough to drink water.

16Q. What is the main theme of the poem?

Ans. 'Everything in nature is sacred' is the main theme of the poem 'snake'. The poet's religious instincts and historical beliefs interpret that snakes are a sign of evil & a bad omen. His prudence tells him that snakes are perilous & venomous, but his humanity believes that they are still part of nature.

17Q. What is the message conveyed through the poem?

Ans. The snake in the poem represents the forces of darkness, brutality & ignorance. These forces harm man.

doubt, but they should be crushed with power & authority. One must also understand that snake is also a crucial part of the fragile ecosystem. Man, being a mean creature tries to dominate the nature; that in turn, results in imbalance & destruction.

18Q: How do you know that the snake's thirst was satisfied?

A: After drinking enough water, the snake took out its bifurcated tongue, moved it & smacked its lips as the cattle do. This was an indication that its thirst was quenched.

19Q: What similarities are drawn here between a king & the snake?

A: The snake was like a king in exile, but the snake was uncrowned in the underworld where it lived.

20Q: Why does the poet stare at the snake with fascination?

A: The poet stared at the snake's movement with fascination as it was quick & graceful.