

## UNIT FOUR: ACTION AND CONSEQUENCES

### **The Parrot in the Cage**

*Lekhanath Paudyal (1885-1966)*

The poem “The Parrot in the Cage” is written by a Nepalese poet, Lekhanath Paudyal. In the poem, the poet is trying to show the nature of human life that longs for freedom, justice, happiness and contentment. The poem is a satire on the then existing political situation i.e. *Rana rule*, that deprived people from freedom, independency and happy life. The Parrot in the Cage is compared with the life of the people in Rana rule. Through the description of the plight of the parrot, the speaker compares the sorrowful description of human life without justice and freedom. The poem is centered on the theme of human nature to live free life, silent disagreement against cruel injustice and domination, and eastern spiritual thoughts. The poem contains the overwhelming impression of desires, wishes, interests, wants and sorrows, lamentation and appeal of the caged parrot from past to the present.

The speaker is disappointed with the harsh reality of human life. Away from family, home, relatives, friends and natural freedom, humans are forced to live the tragic life as the parrot in the cage. The indifferences of human beings to the animals’ plight and the human mentality of getting entertainment imprisoning the animals are bitterly criticized in the poem. As the romantic poet, Paudyal expresses his deep respect to the natural world.

Through the medium of the parrot, voices of political, social, religions, spiritual and habitual life style and situation of human beings have been shown in the poem.

## **A Sound of Thunder**

*Ray Bradbury USA (1920-2012)*

**Question: Defend the statement: “To really understand Bradbury’s story, we must know something about the disciplines of psychology, history, biology, physics, and the butterfly effect — to mention a few.”**

The story ‘A Sound of Thunder’ is written by an American writer, Ray Bradbury. In the story, the writer is trying to show the phenomena of modern society where minor errors in biosphere can cause the devastating effect in the future world, civilization, history and the whole ecosystem. The destruction of the nature changes the world and it has negative effect in the ecology. The story tries to reflect the present environmental damage and effects on the nature, i.e. extinction of natural species.

To understand the writer’s story, we must know something about the disciplines of psychology, biology, history, physics, and butterfly effect. In order to understand the nature of human beings, we must have the general knowledge of psychology, or to understand the story, we must have knowledge about the psychology. History is a story that consists of past, present and future, and there is a significant effect of past to the present and the future as well. So that it is necessary to understand the history. For example: hunting dinosaurs requires knowledge of history of the origins of the species. Similarly, biology is the scientific study of life and structure of plants and animals. The information of animals and insects, or natural species can be found in the story.

Physics is the scientific study of forces in relation to time. Time safari, sounds of thunder, path, firing, light, darkness etc. can be found and understood, if we have knowledge of physics. In the same way, in order to understand the butterfly effect, we must have the knowledge of ecology and ecosystem. So we should understand the interrelationship between nature and the species of it having knowledge on psychology, history, biology, physics, and the butterfly effect.

## **No Smoke from the Chimneys**

*Siddhicharan Shrestha (1912-1992)*

The poem “No Smoke from the Chimneys” is written by a Nepalese poet, Siddhicharan Shrestha. The poem is about the actions of the modern people and the consequences of their actions in the life. The poem focuses that modern people do not have time even to eat due to their hectic schedule. They have broken ideas in the brain. They don't have time to spend with their families. They can cancel their meals and it's something while walking. They do all the things i.e. struggle for their survival. The poem can be interpreted as a political poem that describes the time when the Nepalese people were struggling to root out an archaic system and to establish the democracy for insuring fundamental rights like liberty and happiness, justice, equality, and unity among the people.

Four levels of the poem No Smoke from the Chimneys:

### **1. Literal Comprehension**

The poem “No Smoke from the Chimneys” is written by a Nepalese poet, Siddhicharan Shrestha. This is a political poem that describes the time when the Nepalese people were struggling for democracy and against autocratic Rana rule. The poet raises the issues that people at the time of struggle were ready even to sacrifice the life. Ignoring the personal life, canceling the meal, people were standing for freedom, justice and the rights. So the poem shows the struggle of the people for ensuring justice and freedom rooting out autocratic Rana rule.

### **2. Interpretation**

In the poem, the poet is talking about autocratic Rana rule that was against the rights of the people. The speaker, in the poem, makes a bitter criticism of autocratic rules of Ranas. The poet included the voices of the people to establish justice, liberty, equality and human rights.

### **3. Critical Thinking**

The poem is about the struggle of the people against the autocratic Rana rule. The demonstration was made for liberty and justice. These people who sacrificed their life for positive change in the society are beatified in the poem.

#### **4. Assimilation**

After reading this poem, I really understood the importance of freedom and the rule of law in the nation for equality and justice. I remembered those martyrs who sacrificed their life to exist the fundamental rights and facilities of the people.

