

## UNIT EIGHT: THE HUMAN CONDITION

### The Lunatic

*Laxmi Prasad Devkota, Nepal (1909-1959)*

The poem “The Lunatic” is written by the Nepalese great poet, Laxmi Prasad Devkota. The poet through the poem tries to show the evil works of his contemporary world. The Lunatic is his own translation into English from his Nepali poem ‘Paga!’ In the poem, the persona wearing the mask of a lunatic, tries to give a memorable expression of his own deepest personal feelings and events of his life along with a clinically accurate observation of the hollowness of the so-called intellectual aspirants and leaders of the time and maybe of anytime.

The persona, in the poem, is a mad because he is different from an ordinary people in the sense that he visualizes the sound, hears the visible, tastes the fragrance, touches the objects whose existence the world denies, sees a flower in the stone, and understands the language of the bird. He says that in his calculation one minus one is always one. He is different from other people because he experiences the things that the majority if the people don’t believe so he is mad but in fact ordinary people don’t have creativity and imagination.

He hates the rich but praises the poor because rich people have ambitious plans so they aren’t spiritual but material. They are always unhappy. Likewise, he hates the prostitutes because they are dead in their existence. He hates political leaders because they are dead in their existence. He hates political leaders because they are corrupted and selfish and don’t have humanity. At last, he had shown his dissatisfaction and thinks to punish them. Anyway, Devkota tries to show bad aspects of the society through the poem.

Four levels of the poem The Lunatic:

#### 1. Literal Comprehension

The poem “The Lunatic” is written by the Nepalese great poet, Laxmi Prasad Devkota. The persona, in the poem, is a mad because he is different from an ordinary people in the sense that he visualizes the sound, hears the visible, tastes the fragrance, touches the objects whose existence the world denies, sees a flower in the stone, and understands the language of the birds. He says that in his

calculation one minus one is always one. He is different from other people because he experiences the things that the majority if the people don't believe so he is mad but in fact ordinary people don't have creativity and imagination. He hates the rich but praises the poor because rich people have ambitious plans so they aren't spiritual but material. They are always unhappy. Likewise, he hates the prostitutes because they are dead in their existence. He hates political leaders because they are dead in their existence. He hates political leaders because they are corrupted and selfish and don't have humanity.

## **2. Interpretation**

The poet through the poem tries to show the evil works of his contemporary world. The Lunatic is his own translation into English from his Nepali poem 'Paga!' In the poem, the persona wearing mask of a lunatic, tries to give a memorable expression of his own deepest personal feelings and events of his life along with a clinically accurate observation of the hollowness of the so-called intellectual aspirants and leaders of the time and maybe of anytime. He had shown his dissatisfaction and thinks to punish them. Anyway, Devkota tries to show bad aspects of the society through the poem.

## **3. Critical Thinking**

The poem tries to show the bad aspects of the society and the hollowness of the so called intellectual aspirants and leaders of the time and maybe anytime. But some of the ideas in the poem are not convincing. In the poem, it is said that the persona visualizes the sound, hears the visible, tastes the fragrance, touches the objects whose existence the world denies, sees a flower in the stone and understands the language of the birds. Is it really possible? Doesn't it prove that the poet is really mad? Etc.

## How Sane Are We?

*Anuradha Chaudhary Bangladesh (1947-)*

The essay “How Sane Are We?” is written by Bangladeshi writer, Anuradha Chaudhary. The essay is about the importance of ecological balance and the nature of human beings who are completely unaware on the importance of environmental conservation. The essay tries to show the irrational activities of human beings on the name of modern science and technology and materialism that are curses for natural world. Human beings are being selfish, corrupted, and vile, educated and indifference on the importance of ecology. The essay shows human irrationality and irresponsibility for the future generation. The writer says that we are selfish, corrupted, and vile and we don't care of others. “We are completely unaware about the importance of nature, so we are destroying the nature means ourselves” is the central idea of the essay.

We are being unaware about the importance of the nature. Our ancestors preserved it but we are deceitful offering of our ancestors. The writer says that many of us may think that political leaders are far-sighted but they don't pay any attention to save the environment. Nature was clear and unspoiled in the past, but it is being degraded. On the name of modern science and technology, we have made various thing but we don't care about its effect. The writer has given the example of CFCS gas. We invented the freeze but the gas that is used in it causes the greenhouse effect and reduces the potential quality of ozone layer that means the harmful rays aren't filtered. Due to the harmful rays, various diseases have become the cause of death. The CFCS gas that was introduced in 1930 and in 1974, it was known that the gas is major cause of the destination of ozone layer but no any attention was paid. Later in 2006, the gas was banned. The writer says that though the negative consequences of our activities are very near we are not able to pay the attention on it.

The writer says that we are being selfish and have lost conscience. We have done everything for the personal benefits not for the welfare of the earth, so the writer urges that we should be aware about our activities and should take the rational decision for the prosperous future.

## **Gala**

*Shreedhar Lohani, Nepal (1944-)*

The poem “Gala” is written by a Nepalese popular literary figure, Shreedhar Lohani. The title “Gaia” symbolizes the Earth or the biosphere. The poem is about the greatness, patience and endurance of the earth. Gaia, who forgives each and every bad activities of her children like a mother does for her children. So, the poem can be compared with the mother or the earth and the mother are synonymous.

The searing wind among withered palms, the destructive rain, and the sea with its frothy mouth, the heavy mountain peak, the mildew, turbulence and hunger are all around but she doesn't do anything, but she stares and bears, when the mushroom covers her chest. She endures, remains silence and forgives the bad activities of human beings.

Hence, the poem is about the grandeur of the earth and its grace for the entire human beings to survive.