

BVP LKR

CLASSCLASS-12, SUBJECT-ENGLISH

DATE-01/06/2021, Teacher--LP.SINGH

KEEPING QUIET

---- Pablo Neruda

CENTRAL IDEA----

Pablo Neruda wrote poems in a variety of styles. His poetry bears an impact of his political activities and expresses his experiences in repression during his exile. In this poem, the poet aims to appeal to the readers to take some time out of their busy life for a little introspection and retrospection. The title, “Keeping Quiet” is symbolic of stopping all activities, keeping quiet in the mind, not doing anything, but to question and understand the purpose of the world that humans have created among themselves.

In this poem, the poet has emphasized the need to introspect and bring in the spirit of brotherhood among the people of the world. He wants people to keep quiet so that they can take stock of their mindless activities and self-analysis for mental relaxation and save mankind from its imminent doom. He urges to stop all movements symbolising agitation and restlessness till he counts twelve (supposed to be a short period of time). These

moments of silence would be strange and exotic because in our mundane life,we are working towards selfish goals,regardless of the other's requirements and emotions. In other words, the message conveyed by the poet is that the desire for more and more progress and advancement has done more destruction than development. Man seems to have no concern and care for his brethren.

The poet further creates an image of incessant suffering. In order to make life more comfortable, a person does not pay heed to the sufferings he has undergone. For example, the people who gather salt, do not look their hurt palms because they are more busy making life more comfortable for themselves and their families.

Sudden silence is inevitable for we all to provide us an opportunity to introspect. The sudden silence would break the barriers between communities and a sense of brotherhood would prevail. An opportunity would be then made available to man to realise how he is destroying nature and how he is harming himself. Futile wars against men and nature would be arrested and a new feeling of unity would be experienced. The modern wars, fought with the help of nuclear and chemical weapons, would actually leave no one alive. Such a victory will give no pleasure as there

will be no survivors to enjoy the ceremonial movement of victory. Such advanced and disastrous weapons actually make the living planet change to a dead one and make mankind an extinct species.

In the end the poet wants men to learn a lesson from the Earth. The Earth appears to be inactive on the surface but beneath this dormant surface, there is an amazing life, which ultimately proves that there can be life under apparent stillness. Thus, men too can be productive and progressive without any aggression, selfishness and the urge for destruction. Thus, the poet implores mankind to keep quiet and experience the ecstatic moments of silence. The introspection during silence will help to be rejuvenate and will create a new trend of thoughts for the better. After having achieved his intentions, the poet quietly departs to leave man meditate, introspect and enjoy in that very exotic (amazing) moment.