

BVP LKR

CLASS- 12, SUBJECT-ENGLISH

DATE—23/05/2021,Teacher- L.P.SINGH

DEEP WATER

--- William Douglas

Summarized Theme:---

The present excerpt, 'Deep Water' by William Douglas is taken from his book 'Of Men and Mountains'. 'Deep Water' shows how scared of water Douglas had been as a boy! His first such experience was on the sea beach. He was with his father when a powerful wave swept over him. Though the wave receded, it left Douglas petrified. He aimed to learn swimming. For this, he chose the Y.M.C.A. pool. The pool was safe as its depth at one end(the shallow end) was only two feet. However, the depth at the deep end was nine feet.

One day, a strong young man tossed him into the deep end of the pool, just for fun when he was sitting on the edge of the pool. Douglas had a horrific experience there. He was scared when he began to sink into the depth despite his efforts to spring to the surface. Terror struck him like an electric charge. Fear had seized him and he was nearly drowned. His efforts to save himself went in vain. Even he shouted for help but no one come to

his rescue. Though death was at his door step, he experienced complete freedom from the fear of death. He lay in complete peace finding no way of his rescue. There was no sensation or fear of death then. Fortunately, he was saved in time. This horrific experience left a permanent impression on Douglas's mind. He was shaken badly. Its memories haunted him so much that he felt sick. This incident had rattled him to such an extent that he could not even go canoeing or fishing. This overwhelming terror had made him realize the experience of total peace with no fear of death.

Finally, he made up his mind to overcome his fear. Under the guidance of an instructor, he started to train himself as a swimmer bit by bit. Now, having conquered the terrible fear of water, his will to live become intense.

Douglas implied Roosevelt's quotes 'All we have to fear is fear itself' in his life. He realised that the fear of death (in water) would ruin his life since it was following and haunting him wherever he went. Thus, the experience of fear and death; and its conquest made him live intensely. Conquering fear made him realized the true value of life and helped him enjoy every moment of living.

Thus, Douglas's continuous practice of intellectual and aesthetic powers made him a

perfect swimmer to attain victory over fear and death.