

A man of words and not of **deeds**,
Is like a garden full of **weeds**.
And when the weeds begin to grow,
It's like a garden full of snow.
And when the snow begins to fall,
It's like a bird upon the wall.
And when the bird away does fly,
It's like an eagle in the sky.
And when the sky begins to **roar**,
It's like a lion at the door.
And when the door begins to **crack**,
It's like a stick across your back.
And when your back begins to **smart**,
It's like a penknife in your heart.
And when your heart begins to bleed,
You're dead and dead and dead **indeed**.

ایک باتوں والے اور بے عمل شخص
ایک خود رو گھاس پھوس سے بھرے باغ کی مانند ہوتا ہے۔
اور جب خود رو درو ہڑی بوئیاں پھلنا پھولنا شروع ہو جاتی ہیں
تو باغ ایسے ہو جاتا ہے جیسے برف سے بھر گیا ہو۔
اور جب برف گرنا شروع ہو جاتی ہے تو
یہ دیوار پر بیٹھے پرندے کی مانند ہوتا ہے
اور جب یہ پرندہ دور اڑ جاتا ہے تو
یہ آسمان پر موجود عقاب کی مانند ہوتا ہے
اور جب آسمان گر جتنا شروع کر دیتا ہے تو
دروازے پر موجود شیر کی مانند ہوتا ہے
اور جب دروازے میں دراڑیں پڑنا شروع ہو جاتی ہیں تو
یہ ایک ایسی چھڑی کی مانند ہوتا ہے جس کی ضرب آپ کی کمر پر لگ رہی ہو
اور جب آپ کی کمر دکھنا شروع ہو جائے تو
یہ ایک ایسے جیبی چاقو کی مانند ہوتا ہے جو دل میں اتر جاتا ہے
اور جب آپ کے دل سے خون بہنا شروع ہو جائے تو
پھر آپ واقعی مر جاتے ہیں، مر جاتے ہیں، مر جاتے ہیں۔

WORDS	URDU	SYNONYMS	WORDS	URDU	SYNONYMS
deeds	اعمال	actions , efforts	weeds	جھاڑیاں	unwanted plants, bushes
roar	گر جٹنا	deep, loud sound, thunder	crack	ٹوٹنا	break, collapse
smart	چھیننا	sharp pain, sting	indeed	بے شک	no doubt, certainly, definitely

EXPLANATION OF LINES WITH REFERENCE TO THE CONTEXT**LINES 1-4**

*A man of words and not of deeds,
Is like a garden full of weeds.
And when the weeds begin to grow,
It's like a garden full of snow.*

REFERENCE:

These lines have been taken from the poem “A Man of Words and Not of Deeds” by Charles Perrault.

CONTEXT:

A man who only talks and does nothing lives a meaningless and wasteful life. The poet wants to say that a talkative man is doomed to live a worthless life and die a fearful death.

EXPLANATION:

The first two lines begin with some semblance of logic but the third and fourth lines mark a departure into the beginning of chaos. There is no logical sequence from the growing of weeds to a garden full of snow because nothing grows in the snow. Considering that the title describes a person who indulges in talking without accomplishing anything practical, the overall impression is one of a shambolic existence. Therefore, the images and metaphors used by the poet convey a sense of illogical progression. It must be noted that the mood of implausibility and disconnectedness is the poet's way of conveying the disjointed existence of a man whose talk never takes the form of concrete action.

CRITICAL APPRECIATION:

The poet uses a series of similes from nature to reinforce his point of view. The simile of an **unproductive garden** shows worthless life of a talkative person. Snow—an image of lethargy, inertia and death—shows futile life of a person who only talks and does nothing. The rhyme scheme in these lines is AABB.

LINES 5-8

*And when the snow begins to fall,
It's like a bird upon the wall.
And when the bird away does fly,
It's like an eagle in the sky.*

EXPLANATION:

There is no plausible connection between snowfall and a bird on a wall as these feathered creatures tend to migrate well before the onset of extreme winter. It must be noted that the mood of implausibility and disconnectedness is the poet's way of conveying the disjointed existence of a man whose talk nevertakes the form of concrete action.

Notably, from line 7 onward, the metaphors begin to coalesce (merge) into coherent patterns. For example, the bird which is sensible enough to fly away from the oppressive weather is said to have the faculty and astuteness of an eagle because it has translated its thoughts into deeds. In this way it avoids the thunder and lightning of the snowstorm which can break down the door of a weakly built house in which the lazy man lives. The last six lines are addressed directly to this man warning him that his inactivity will render him a victim to circumstances he has done nothing to avoid.

CRITICAL APPRECIATION:

The image of the 'bird on the wall' indicates effort for survival of a talkative person. The image of the 'eagle on the sky' indicates the life of a person who depends on others for his survival. The rhyme scheme in these lines AABB.

LINES 9-12

*And when the sky begins to roar,
It's like a lion at the door.
And when the door begins to crack,
It's like a stick across your back.*

(1 Time)**EXPLANATION:**

There is no logical sequence from the growing of weeds to a garden full of snow because nothing grows in the snow. In the same way, there is no plausible connection between snowfall and a bird on a wall as these feathered creatures tend to migrate well before the onset of extreme winter. It must be noted that the mood of implausibility and disconnectedness is the poet's way of conveying the disjointed existence of a man whose talk nevertakes the form of concrete action.

The metaphors here begin to coalesce into coherent patterns. For example, the bird which is sensible enough to fly away from the oppressive weather is said to have the faculty and astuteness of an eagle because it has translated its thoughts into deeds. In this way it avoids the thunder and lightning of the snowstorm which can break down the door of a weakly built house in which the lazy man lives. These lines are addressed directly to this man warning him that his inactivity will render him a victim to circumstances he has done nothing to avoid.

CRITICAL APPRECIATION:

The image of the 'lion at the door' indicates great horror that takes one unawares and leaves no way to escape. The auditory image of 'crack' shows shattering of illusionary protection of empty words and false prides. The rhyme scheme in these lines is AABB.

LINES 13-16

*And when your back begins to smart,
It's like a penknife in your heart.
And when your heart begins to bleed,
You're dead and dead and dead indeed.*

EXPLANATION:

There is no logical sequence or plausible connection between the metaphors used. It must be noted that the mood of implausibility and disconnectedness is the poet's way of conveying the disjointed existence of a man whose talk never takes the form of concrete action.

The poet describes different phases and gradual deterioration of a person who only talks in his life and practically does nothing. He portrays the pitiful and dreadful end of a person who has wasted his life in boastful talking. A man having no feeling of pride of accomplishment dies a fearful and regrettable death. The images of death in these lines portray the horrible end of an idle person. Such a person experiences the tortures of living death and painful realization of the wastage of blessed life.

CRITICAL APPRECIATION:

The image "a penknife in your heart" indicates conflict of mind and pricking of conscience. The repetition of the word "dead" implies constant knocking of the painful realization of uselessness and wastefulness. The rhyme scheme in these lines is AABF.

TEXTBOOK EXERCISE

**Q.1 How does the life of an idle man pass through different phases? OR
How does man pass through different phases of life?**

(3 Times)

Childhood, Youth and Old Age

Ans. The poet describes different phases of life of a person who only talks in his life and practically does nothing. Different phases of man's life include childhood, youth and old age. An idle person lives a wasteful and unproductive life, and dies a painful and regrettable death.

Q.2 What happens when life is spent with the help of words and not of deeds?

OR

What is meant by “A man of words and not of deeds”? OR

What happens when life is not of deeds but full of words? OR

Why does the poet prefer a man of deeds?

(4 Times)

(4 Times)

(5 Times)

(1 Time)

Worthless Life and Fearful Death

Ans. A man who only talks and does nothing lives a hollow, wasteful life. Empty words without actions betray a man's hollowness and unproductiveness. The poet wants to say that a talkative man is doomed to live a worthless life and die a fearful death. His attitude rusts his abilities and aggravates the situation.

Q.3 What does the garden look like when the weeds start growing?

(3 Times)

A Desolate Place

Ans. The garden looks like a desolate place full of snow when the weeds start growing. A garden full of weeds is a symbol of uselessness and fruitlessness, while snow is the symbol of lifelessness, numbness and death. The poet wants to say that an inactive person contributes nothing towards society.

Q.4 What is the moral of the poem, "A Man of Words and Not of Deeds"?

(4 Times)

OR

“Actions speak louder than words.” How is it with reference to “A Man of Words and Not of Deeds”?

(1 Time)

Diligence – a key to Prosperity

Ans. The moral of the poem is that a man who only talks and does nothing lives a meaningless and wasteful life. A talkative man is doomed to live a worthless life and die a fearful death. The poet wants to say that idleness leads to a threat to productivity and fruitfulness while diligence is a key to growth and prosperity.

MCQS FOR PRACTICE

1. A man of _____ and not of deeds is like a garden full of weeds.

(a) words

(c) power

(b) knowledge

(d) actions

2. When the _____ begin to grow, it is like a garden full of snow.

(a) crops

(c) weeds

(b) moon

(d) man

3. When the snow begins to fall, it is like a _____ upon the wall.

(a) eagle

(c) window

(b) statue

(d) bird

4. And when the bird away does fly, it is like _____ in the sky.

(a) a moon

(c) an eagle

(b) a star

(d) a cloud

5. When the _____ begins to roar, it is like a lion at the door.

(a) rain

(c) beast

(b) wolf

(d) sky

6. When the _____ begins to crack, it is like a stick across your back,
 (a) door (c) wall
 (b) plan (d) floor
7. When your back begins to smart, it is like a _____ in your heart,
 (a) blood (c) peace
 (b) pain (d) penknife
8. When your _____ begins to bleed, you are dead indeed,
 (a) body (c) head
 (b) heart (d) eye
9. What does snow symbolize?
 (a) vigor (c) inertia
 (b) energy (d) diligence
10. Who wrote the poem "A Man of Words and Not of Deeds"?
 (a) Charles Perrault (c) Robert Graves
 (b) Jon Stallworthy (d) John Peter

ANSWER KEY

1.	A	2.	C	3.	D	4.	C	5.	D	6.	A	7.	D	8.	B	9.	C	10.	A
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SYNONYMS FROM PAST PAPERS

1. A man of words and not of deeds. (2 Times)
 (a) deals (b) heels (c) attractions (d) actions

ANSWER KEY

1.	D
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MORE SYNONYMS FOR PRACTICE

1. A man of words and not of deeds is like a garden full of weeds.
 (a) useless plants (c) saplings
 (b) dense bushes (d) seedlings
2. When the sky begins to roar, it is like a lion at the door.
 (a) howl (c) chirp
 (b) blow (d) buzz
3. When the door begins to crack, it is like a stick across your back.
 (a) flash (c) flush
 (b) crash (d) cling
4. When your back begins to smart, it is like a penknife in your heart.
 (a) sting (c) fling
 (b) sing (d) sling
5. When your heart begins to bleed, you are dead, and dead and dead indeed.
 (a) however (c) in fact
 (b) similarly (d) nevertheless

ANSWER KEY

1.	A	2.	A	3.	B	4.	A	5.	C
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