

In the storms of the shrills
Of **arms**, smoke and the **drills**
All were **scarred**, burnt and afraid
Powerless and helpless were they made.

Woeful were all the hills
Wasteful were all the gills
None to share their **moans**
None to **lessen** their **groans**.

The flowers, flavours all **smashed**
Burnt, crushed and all **dashed**
And all passed through the grind
Leaving there nothing behind.

No eyes could look
The **explosion** that took
The lives of two glories
In the moments of **furies**.
All was done by a nation
Who in her wild passion
Cared not for the human rights
Nor saved them from deadly fights.
But how much great were they
Who **bore** the pains of black day:
"Ashes are not merely the waste
They can really **create** the great."

تھمسیا رہیں کر تہ: آواز کے طوفانوں میں
دھوئیں اور فوجی مشقوں میں
سب کے سب زخمی جلے ہوئے اور خوفزدہ تھے
انہیں بے یاد گارو مدد گار اور ناتواں بنا دیا گیا
تمام پہاڑیاں افسردہ تھیں
تمام ڈالنے تباہ و برباد ہو گئے
کوئی نہیں تھا ان کی آہ و بیکار کو کم کرنے والا
کوئی نہ بچان کی کراہوں کو کم کرنے والا
پھول خوشبو ہر چیز اجاڑ دی گئی
جل گئے روند دیئے گئے پامال کیئے گئے
اور سب کہ سب ایسی ظلم کی چکی سے گزرے
کہ کچھ بھی نہ بچا وہاں۔
کوئی آنکھ یہ سب نہیں دیکھ سکتی تھی
اس دھماکے کو جس نے اجاڑ دیا
دو عظیم الشان شہروں کے رنگوں کو
غیض و غضب کے لمحات میں
یہ سب ایک قوم کی کارستانی ہے۔
جس نے اپنے وحشیانہ جذبات میں
انسانی حقوق کا خیال نہ رکھا
اور انہیں خطرناک جنگوں سے نہ بچایا
لیکن وہ کتنے عظیم لوگ تھے
جنہوں نے یوم سیاہ کی تکالیف کو برداشت کیا
راکھ محض ناکارہ چیز نہیں ہوئی
اہوں نے اسے واقعی عظیم بنا دیا

WORDS	URDU	SYNONYMS	WORDS	URDU	SYNONYMS
lessen	کم کرنا	reduce , lower, diminish	drills	فوجی مشقیں	military exercises, maneuvers
wasteful	برباد	ruined , scrap, wreck	bore	برداشت کرنا	endure, suffer, go through
smashed	تباہ	destroyed , broken, shattered	arms	اسلحہ	weapons, military equipment
groans	درد سے کراہنا	moans , cries, sobs	scarred	دائدار، زخمی	injured, wounded, damaged
woeful	غم زدہ	grieved , sad , sorrowful	dashed	تباہ ہونا	destroyed, ruined, devastated
create	پیدا کرنا	produce , bring into existence	moans	درد سے چلانا	cries, groans, sobs
explosion	دھماکہ	bang, blast, burst	furies	طیش، قہر	anger, rage, wrath

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

*In the storms of the shrills
Of arms, smoke and the drills
All were scarred, burnt and afraid
Powerless and helpless were they made.*

REFERENCE:

These lines have been taken from the poem "A Tale of Two Cities" by John Peter.

CONTEXT:

The poet describes horrible destruction when Japan was bombarded by America in 1945. The Japanese suffered the brutality patiently and bravely. They did not lose heart and rose to the heights of glory again. The poem is a condemnation of the use of nuclear weapons.

EXPLANATION:

The poet describes the scene of devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. When America and its allies dropped atom bombs on the two glorious cities in 1945, there was destruction everywhere. It was a horrible scene. The loud sounds of explosions were deafening. Life was burning and smoke was rising. Millions of people were injured, burnt, and killed. The innocent civilians were killed horribly and mercilessly. They were made to suffer insufferable pain. They were totally helpless and powerless. There was no one to save their life or ease their death.

CRITICAL APPRECIATION:

The poet uses cacophonous auditory images of storms, shrills and drills to the feelings of chaos and destruction caused by the nuclear explosion. The rhyme scheme in these lines is AABB.

LINES 5-8

*Woeful were all the hills
Wasteful were all the grills
None to share their moans
None to lessen their groans.*

EXPLANATION:

The poet describes the scene of destruction when America and its allies dropped atom bombs on the two glorious cities of Japan in 1945. He says that even the hills seemed to mourn over the massive loss of life. All the landscape was ruined and the beauty crushed. The line 'Wasteful were all the grills' depicts the horrible destruction of public places like restaurants and hotels which were reduced to rubble and ashes. The poet describes the pitiable and miserable condition the sufferers who screamed in pain and cried for help. The innocent civilians were made to suffer insufferable pain, but was no one to save their life or ease their death. These lines condemn this brutality of power-drunk people.

CRITICAL APPRECIATION:

The auditory images of groans and moans convey the feelings of intense pain suffered by the Japanese people. The adjectives 'Woeful' and 'Wasteful' depict the painful annihilation of life and glory. The rhyme scheme in these lines is AABB.

LINES 9-12

*The flowers, flavours all smashed
Burnt, crushed and all dashed
And all passed through the grind
Leaving there nothing behind.*

EXPLANATION:

The poet describes the scene of destruction when America and its allies dropped atom bombs on the two glorious cities of Japan in 1945. He describes the intensity of the blast by portraying the destruction of natural beauty. 'The flowers', representing beauty, grace and glory, were crushed and burnt to ashes. In a few moments, life with all its charm and fragrance was destroyed most cruelly and horribly. The two cities presented a view of horrible destruction with no signs of pride and prosperity left behind. The lines evoke feelings of pity, sympathy and compassion.

CRITICAL APPRECIATION:

The olfactory and gustatory images of 'flowers' and 'flavors' are employed by the poet to show the destruction caused by the nuclear attack. The rhyme scheme in these lines is AABB.

LINES 13-16

*No eye could look
The explosion that took
The lives of two glories
In the moments of furies.*

(3 Times)

EXPLANATION:

The poet describes the scene of destruction when America and its allies dropped atom bombs on the two glorious cities of Japan in 1945. He narrates that the explosion was so severe and intense that no human eye could see the horrible devastation. The two cities Nagasaki and Hiroshima were reduced to ashes with all their beauty and glory. They turned into a death valley within no time. The poet condemns the insane, inhuman and brutal act that caused widespread destruction of all life and its beauty.

CRITICAL APPRECIATION:

The word 'glories' here stands for two glorious cities of Japan, Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The line 'No eye could look' implies the intensity of brutality and the limits of human suffering. The rhyme scheme in these lines is AABB.

LINES 17-20

*All was done by a nation
Who in her wild passion
Cared not for the human rights
Nor saved them from deadly fights.*

EXPLANATION:

The poet describes the scene of destruction when America and its allies dropped atom bombs on the two glorious cities of Japan in 1945. In these lines, the poet condemns the powerful nation whose craze and insanity claimed the lives of innocent people and ruined their beautiful cities. The mad anger of the nation dissolved its intellect and paralyzed its reasoning faculty. The nation that claims to be the torch-bearer of human rights violated all norms and values, and caused widespread destruction. Being a superpower, it should have played a positive role, but it played a negative and destructive role. It attacked innocent people and brought suffering and misery to humanity.

CRITICAL APPRECIATION:

The line ‘All was done a nation’ expresses the hypocrisy and duplicity of a power-drunk nation that played a most shameful role in human history. The rhyme scheme in these lines is AABB.

LINES 21-24

*But how much great were they
Who bore the pains of black day:
“Ashes are not merely the waste
They can really create the great.”*

EXPLANATION:

In the last stanza, the poet pays tribute to the Japanese who bore the pain and suffering boldly and courageously. He appreciates the efforts of the brave people who worked hard to shake off the after-effects of the war and devastation. The poet pays homage to the people who mustered up their courage and rose again to the heights of glory as an economic power. The poet wants to say that the final victory is theirs who do not lose heart and whose indestructible will does not let them stoop down. He sums up the dreadful story on a note of courage and optimism: a nation’s greatness is tested and strengthened by pain and suffering.

CRITICAL APPRECIATION:

Through paradoxical statement, the poet presents ashes as a symbol of revival and rebirth. He means to say that new life comes into being after total destruction and annihilation. The rhyme scheme in these lines is AABB.

TEXTBOOK EXERCISE

- Q.1** Why did the people of two cities look powerless and helpless? OR (17 Times)
 Why did the people of Japan look helpless? OR (1 Time)
 Who shared the moans and lessened the groans of the people of two cities? (2 Times)

No One to Rescue Them

Ans. The people of two cities of Japan looked powerless and helpless because there was no one to rescue them or lessen their pain. In the storms of the explosions, the people were wounded, burnt and frightened to death. The poet describes a horrible scene of destruction when atom bombs were dropped on the two cities of Japan in 1945.

- Q.2** Describe the scene of devastation in “A Tale of Two Cities”. OR (11 Times)
 How much terrible were the explosions that look place in the two cities of Japan?
 OR (2 Times)
 Describe the destruction of the two cities as depicted by the poet in the poem “A Tale of Two Cities”. OR (1 Time)
 Describe the circumstances the victims had to pass through. (1 Time)

Suffering and Terrible Death

Ans. The people of the two cities of Japan passed through great pain, suffering, and terrible death when a nation dropped atom bombs on them. The victims were wounded, scarred and burnt alive. There was no one to rescue them or help them out. The poet says that no eye could look at the terrible destruction.

- Q.3** What is the moral lesson/theme/central idea/message of the poem? (9 Times)

Human Spirit is Indestructible

Ans. The poem is a condemnation of savagery and brutality caused by nuclear weapons. The poet says that we lose nothing significant if we do not lose our hope. Human spirit or will is indestructible and unconquerable. Those are great people who bear pain but do not lose heart. They rise again to the heights of glory.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM PAST PAPERS

- Q.1** How did the Japanese bear the pains of the black day? (3 Times)

Boldly and Courageously

Ans. The Japanese bore the pains of the black day boldly and courageously. The innocent people of Japan were wounded, scarred and burnt alive, but their spirit could not be destroyed. They did not lose hope and rose up again to the heights of glory. As an economic power.

- Q.2** Why were atom bombs dropped on the two cities? (1 Time)

Wild Fury

Ans. Atom bombs were dropped on the two cities in 1945 by a nation in its wild fury. It violated the human rights and brought pain, suffering and death to the innocent people of Japan. Being power-drunk, America and its allies destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki, completely. The horrible destruction left no sign of their beauty and glory behind.

Q.3 What was the condition of the grills in "A Tale of Two Cities"? (1 Time)

Very Horrible

Ans. The condition of the grills was awful and horrible. The grills here stand for hotels, restaurants and public places of socialization. All the grills were completely reduced to rubble and ashes, and the beauty of two cities was crushed. This shows a large-scale destruction caused by the atomic explosions.

MCQS FOR PRACTICE

1. **What was the condition of the people of Japan?**
 (a) successful (c) scarred
 (b) delighted (d) happy
2. **Who made the Japanese helpless and powerless?**
 (a) the Americans (c) the Koreans
 (b) the Russians (d) The Chinese
3. **Who came to share the moans of the Japanese?**
 (a) none (c) the allies
 (b) the Chinese (d) the Americans
4. **Why did the Americans drop atom bombs on Japan?**
 (a) for human rights (c) in wild passion
 (b) for friendship (d) for fun
5. **Who wrote the poem, "A Tale of Two Cities"?**
 (a) John Peter (c) A.E. Housman
 (b) W.H. Davies (d) Jon Stallworthy

ANSWER KEY

1.	C	2.	A	3.	A	4.	C	5.	A
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SYNONYMS FROM PAST PAPERS

1. **Woeful** were all the hills. (3 Times)
 (a) grieved (b) jolly (c) happy (d) high
 (a) bad (b) attractive (c) sad (d) furious
2. The Japanese were **woeful**. (1 Time)
 (a) great (b) joyful (c) sad (d) serious
3. None to lessen their **groans**. (2 Times)
 (a) wishes (b) means (c) aims (d) joys
4. None to **lessen** their groans. (2 Times)
 (a) abdicate (b) increase (c) reduce (d) scare
5. They can really **create** the great. (1 Time)
 (a) encourage (b) discourage (c) produce (d) praise
6. The flowers and the flavours were **smashed**. (1 Time)
 (a) planted (b) provided (c) smelled (d) crushed
7. All the grills **wasteful**. (1 Time)
 (a) ruined (b) safe (c) sound (d) healthy

ANSWER KEY

1.	A/C	2.	C	3.	B	4.	C	5.	C	6.	D	7.	A
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MORE SYNONYMS FOR PRACTICE

1. **The Japanese were scarred in the storms of shrills of arms.**
 (a) wounded (c) afraid
 (b) killed (d) excited
2. **The Japanese were scarred in the storms of shrills of arms.**
 (a) noises (c) murmurs
 (b) chirps (d) blasts
3. **There were shrills of arms.**
 (a) weapons (c) limbs
 (b) bullets (d) shoulders
4. **The Americans in their wild furries destroyed Japan.**
 (a) fun (c) delight
 (b) rage (d) attack
5. **All the grills were wasteful.**
 (a) guns (c) cannons
 (b) dungs (d) broilers
6. **There was none to share the moans of the Japanese.**
 (a) tones (c) tunes
 (b) songs (d) sighs
7. **All the Japanese passed through the grind.**
 (a) destruction (c) success
 (b) victory (d) greatness
8. **The explosion took the lives of the two glories.**
 (a) tsunami (c) attack
 (b) storm (d) blast
9. **The Second World War was a deadly fight.**
 (a) light (c) little
 (b) fatal (d) small
10. **“Ashes are not merely the waste.....”**
 (a) tully (c) just
 (b) absolutely (d) thoroughly

ANSWER KEY

1.	A	2.	D	3.	A	4.	B	5.	D	6.	D	7.	A	8.	D	9.	B	10.	C
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