

Poem 15

He Came to Know Himself Bullah Shah

He came to know Himself

وہ اپنی پہچان کر لے آیا

Naught else had He in view

سوائے اس کے کچھ مقصد نہیں تھا

To be able to realize this

یہ محسوس کرنے کے لیے

He got **enmeshed** in love

وہ محبت میں گرفتار ہو گیا

He **alighted** from high heaven

وہ بلند آسمانوں سے اترا

To pour a **cascade** of love

محبت کے چشمے بہانے کے لیے

Became Mansur to **mount** the **gallows**

منصور بنا اور سولی پر لٹک گیا

Just to have His head cut off.

اپنا سر کٹوانے کی خاطر

He **treaded** the bazaars of Egypt

وہ مصر کے بازار میں چلا

Just to be sold for a slave

بطور غلام فروخت ہونے کے لیے

Sachu speaks the bare Truth

سچو واضح سچ کہتا ہے

To speak of His **sojourn** on earth.

جب وہ اس (خدا) کے زمین پر آنے کا ذکر کرتا ہے

WORDS	URDU	SYNONYMS	WORDS	URDU	SYNONYMS
<u>alighted</u>	اترنا	<u>descended,</u> landed, came down	treaded	چلنا	walked, stepped, paced
<u>cascade</u>	آبشار	<u>water fall,</u> cataract	mount	سوار ہونا پڑھنا	get on, climb, ascend
<u>gallows</u>	پھانسی کا تختہ	<u>scaffold,</u> hanging framework	sojourn	وقتی قیام	stay, visit, stopover
<u>enmeshed</u>	سرشار	<u>netted, entangled,</u> involved	naught	کچھ بھی نہیں	nothing, zero, nil

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

*He came to know Himself
Naught else had He in view
To be able to realize this
He got enmeshed in love*

REFERENCE:

These lines have been taken from the poem "He Came to Know Himself" by Sachal Sarmast.

CONTEXT:

The poem reveals a mystic belief that God comes to the earth in the guise of His true lovers who embrace sorrows and sufferings smilingly. Trials and tribulations strengthen their faith in God. They sacrifice their lives to win the grace of God.

EXPLANATION:

The poet says that there was nothing in the beginning of beginnings, but there was God all right. In God's view, there was nothing but He Himself. So, God created the universe and life in order to make Himself known and worshipped by His creatures. He became the embodiment of love in order to bless His creatures with His love and grace. The poet narrates here a mystic belief that God came to the earth in the guise of His lovers to show glimpses of His existence. Prophets, saints, mystics, martyrs and all holy persons and noble souls were God's true followers.

CRITICAL APPRECIATION:

There is a widely quoted Hadith in mysticism: "I was a Hidden Treasure; I loved to be known, so I created the creation in order to be known." Great Sufi masters like Ibn al-Arabi and Rumi have made abundant use of it to build their mystical philosophy.

LINES 5-8

*He alighted from high heaven
To pour a cascade of love
Became Mansur to mount the gallows
Just to have His head cut off.*

EXPLANATION:

To support his mystic belief, the poet quotes examples of some true lovers of God Almighty. He says that to manifest Himself and bless His creatures with His love and grace, God came down from the heaven on this earth in the guise of Mansur. Mansur Hallaj was a saint who loved God so much that he forgot his own self and, in God-drunk state, said: "I am God. I am God." The religious clerics thought that it was a sin to call oneself God. They gave their verdict and Mansur was hanged. According to the poet, His true lovers do not hesitate to lay down their lives to win the grace and pleasure of God Almighty.

CRITICAL APPRECIATION:

The poet has used the metaphor of cascade to describe an abundant flow of love. The alliterative sound in the phrases 'high heaven', 'Mansur to mount' and 'to have His head' add to the flow and rhythm of these lines.

LINES 9-12

He needed the bazaars of Egypt

Just to be sold for a slave

Sachu speaks the bare Truth

To speak of His sojourn on earth.

EXPLANATION:

To support his mystic belief, the poet quotes examples of some true lovers of God. He says that to manifest Himself and bless His creatures with His love and grace, God came down from the heaven to the earth in the guise of His true lovers. Here, the poet gives the example of Hazrat Yousaf (A.S) who walked in the bazaars of Egypt and was sold as a slave. In deep love of God, he did not care for his life or status. He submitted his will to God's will. According to the poet, His true lovers do not hesitate to lay down their lives to win the grace and pleasure of God. To sum up his mystic belief, the poet says that it is absolutely true when he speaks of God's stay on earth. Prophets, saints, mystics, martyrs and all holy persons and noble souls were God's true followers.

CRITICAL APPRECIATION:

The alliterative sound in the phrases 'sold for a slave' and 'Sachu speaks' add to the rhythmic beauty of these lines. There is an allusion to the Prophet Joseph who was sold as a slave in Egypt.

TEXTBOOK EXERCISE

Q.1 Why did Mansur mount gallows?

(11 Times)

Unpardonable Sin

Ans. Mansur Hallaj was a Persian mystic, poet, and teacher of Sufism. He was so much drunk in the love of God that he began saying: "I am the Truth", which many saw as an unpardonable sin and put him to death. Others interpreted it as an instance of annihilation of the ego, allowing God to speak through him.

Q.2 What is the 'bare truth' mentioned in the poem, "He Came to Know Himself"? (4 Times)

God Stayed on the Earth

Ans. The poet says it is absolutely true that God stayed on the earth from time to time. It means that God made Himself known through His beloved men like Hazrat Yousaf, Mansur and many others, whom He sent to the earth to give the people a message of love.

Q.3 Why does the poet put emphasis on how to know himself? (2 Times)

Knowing Oneself is Knowing God

Ans. The poet puts emphasis on how to know himself because knowing oneself leads to knowing God, and this spiritual enlightenment helps one to love and serve humanity. God came to know Himself through the creation of the universe and by becoming an embodiment of love for His creatures.

Q.4 Who treaded the bazaars of Egypt? (1Time)

Hazrat Yousaf

Ans. Hazrat Yousaf (AS) was a prophet of Allah and the son of Prophet Ya'qub (AS). He treaded the bazaars of Egypt, and was sold as a slave by his own brothers. Hazrat Yousaf, like many other prophets of God, went through trials and tribulations in order to seek God's love, grace and pleasure.

Q.5 What makes one entangled in love? (1 Time)

To be Known and Appreciated

Ans. What makes one entangled in love is the natural desire to be known and appreciated by one's fellow beings. There are others such as prophets and saints who submit themselves to the will of their Creator. God Himself got entangled in love in order to be known and worshipped.

Q.6 What is the central idea of the poem, "He Came to Know Himself"? (1 Time)

Love and Serve Humanity

Ans. The central idea of the poem is that knowing oneself leads to knowing God, and this spiritual enlightenment helps one to love and serve humanity. The poem reveals the mystic truth that God revealed Himself through His prophets and saints who gave the people a message of love.

Q.7 What changes does one feel after knowing himself? (1 Time)

Many Blessed Changes

Ans. A person feels many blessed changes after knowing himself. He comes to know his Creator and the purpose of his life. He gets entangled in love, serves humanity and wins the grace and pleasure of God. One who knows oneself is blessed by God.

MCQS FOR PRACTICE

1. **Who wrote the poem, 'He Came to Know Himself'?**
 (a) Bullah Shah (c) Jalaluddin Rumi
 (b) Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi (d) Sachal Sarmast
2. **Why did God alight from heaven?**
 (a) to rule the world (c) to shower love on earth
 (b) to help Mansur (d) to help Joseph
3. **What did Mansur do?**
 (a) He mocked Islamic teachings. (c) He did what he liked.
 (b) He said, "I am the Truth." (d) He walked in bazaars of Egypt.
4. **Why did Joseph (AS) tread the bazaars of Egypt?**
 (a) to become valueless (c) to prove his worth
 (b) to prove his love for God (d) to mount the gallows
5. **Why did God get Himself enmeshed in love?**
 (a) to frighten others (c) to pour a cascade of love
 (b) to create this world (d) to prove Himself supreme

ANSWER KEY

1.	D	2.	C	3.	B	4.	B	5.	C
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SYNONYMS FROM PAST PAPERS

1. **God alighted from high heaven. (3 Times)**
 (a) came down (b) gained victory (c) climbed (d) deserted
 (a) ascended (b) descended (c) looked down (d) poured down
2. **He got enmeshed in love. (3 Times)**
 (a) excluded (b) disengaged (c) entangled (d) escaped
 (a) netted (b) freed (c) escaped (d) ran away
 (a) entangled (b) selected (c) referred (d) dejected
3. **He alighted from heavens to pour a cascade of love. (2 Times)**
 (a) brook (b) spring (c) waterfall (d) sea
 (a) gloom (b) plight (c) waterfall (d) flight
4. **Became Mansur to mount the gallows. (1 Time)**
 (a) scaffold (b) ladder (c) mountain (d) hurdles

ANSWER KEY

1.	A/B	2.	C/A/A	3.	C/C	4.	A
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MORE SYNONYMS FOR PRACTICE

1. **Became Mansur to mount the gallows.**
(a) climb (c) descend
(b) get down (d) increase
2. **To pour a cascade of love.**
(a) realize (c) put
(b) scatter (d) shower
3. **He trebled the bazaars of Egypt.**
(a) visited (c) walked
(b) admired (d) built
4. **Sachu speaks the bare Truth**
(a) simple (c) half
(b) covered (d) fake
5. **To speak of His sojourn on earth.**
(a) speech (c) address
(b) blessing (d) stay

ANSWER KEY

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