

My neighbour friend breathing his last!

What should I do, O God! **Aghast!**

He is to leave, now can't remain,

**Companions** ready to catch the train.

What should I do, O God! Aghast!

On every side **decamping** talk,

At every place are **shrieks** in **stock**

What should I do, O God! Aghast!

**Flare up** flames in heart to height,

For, visible is not **charming** sight.

What should I do, O God! Aghast!

Without His love, Bullah in loss,

Can hardly **dwel** here or across.

What should I do, O God! Aghast!

میرا ہمسایہ آخری سانس لے رہا ہے

اوہ خدا یا میں حیران، پریشان ہوں کہ کیا کروں!

وہ رک نہیں سکتا، اسے جانا ہے

تمام احباب نے بھی اک دن چلے جانا ہے

اوہ خدا یا میں حیران، پریشان ہوں کہ کیا کروں!

ہر طرف (دنیا سے) چلے جانے کے چرچے ہیں

ہر طرف چیخ و پکار ہی جاری ہے

اوہ خدا یا میں حیران، پریشان ہوں کہ کیا کروں!

دل میں شعلے بلند ہو رہے ہیں

کیونکہ دلکش منظر دکھائی نہیں دے رہا

اوہ خدا یا میں حیران، پریشان ہوں کہ کیا کروں!

اللہ تعالیٰ کی محبت کے سوا بلحا (شاہ) خسارے میں ہے

دنیا و آخرت دونوں میں بمشکل رہ سکتا ہے

WORDS	URDU	SYNONYMS	WORDS	URDU	SYNONYMS
<b>aghas</b>	خوفزدہ	<b>terrified</b> , shocked, horrified	<b>companions</b>	ساتھی	<b>friends</b> , fellows, mates
<b>decamping</b>	روانہ ہونا	<b>departing</b> , leaving, going away	<b>shrieks</b>	چینیں	<b>cries</b> , screams, shouts
<b>stock</b>	ذخیرہ	<b>awaiting</b> , store, collection	<b>flare up</b>	بھڑکنا	burn, burst out, blaze
<b>dwel</b>	رہنا	<b>live</b> , stay, settle	<b>charming</b>	دلکش	delightful, fascinating, appealing

**EXPLANATION WITH REFERENCE TO THE CONTEXT****LINES 1-2**

*My neighbour friend breathing his last!  
What should I do, O God! Aghast!*

**REFERENCE:**

These lines have been taken from the poem "My Neighbour Friend Breathing His Last!" by Bullan Shah.

**CONTEXT:**

The poem is an expression of overwhelming sorrow over the death of a beloved friend. A friend's death not only makes our lives dark and gloomy but also reminds us of our own mortality and helplessness.

**EXPLANATION:**

The poet is shocked and grieved over the death of his beloved friend. It is said that Bulla Shah wrote this poem on the death of his spiritual guide and mentor, Sufi Shah Inayat. The poet feels restless and helpless at this tragedy. He looks to God for consolation in these dark moments of life. Death is a bitter reality. Everyone is bound to taste the flavor of death. Everyone is to die sooner or later. The poet looks to God for divine help. He seeks God's support that strengthens the mortals to suffer the insufferable pains and irreparable losses in life.

**CRITICAL APPRECIATION:**

The exclamatory signs used here indicate the intensity of the speaker's grief over the death of his friend. 'Aghast' means to be filled with horror and shock, and it truly expresses the poet's sheer helplessness and loneliness. The rhyme scheme in these lines is AA.

**LINES 3-5**

*He is to leave, now can't remain,  
Companions ready to catch the train.  
What should I do, O God! Aghast!*

**EXPLANATION:**

The poet is shocked and grieved over the death of his beloved friend. Being a Muslim, the poet knows that the ultimate reality of life is death. He knows that death is inevitable and that everyone is to die sooner or later. He says that the relatives are ready to perform burial ceremonies of the departed soul. However, the pangs of separation are too much for him. He cannot think of living a life without his beloved friend. Without his charming friend, the poet finds his life dark and desolate. The shock of death is so overwhelming for the poet that he resorts to God for His divine help. He seeks God's support that strengthens the mortals to suffer the insufferable pains and irreparable losses in life.

**CRITICAL APPRECIATION:**

The image of 'Companions ready to catch the train' depicts the ritualistic haste of the worshippers and the painful numbness of the poet's mind. The rhyme scheme in these lines is AAB.

**LINES 6-8**

*On every side decamping talk,  
At every place are shrieks in stock  
What should I do, O God! Aghast!*

(1 Time)

**EXPLANATION:**

The poet describes the scene of death of his beloved friend. He says that everywhere the subject of death is under discussion. The people are talking about the departed soul, the transient nature of life and their own approaching death. Painful shrieks of the relatives make the death scene woeful and doleful. The mourners have their catharsis through weeping and screaming, but the poet is so shocked that he cannot express his pain through tears or cries. He, therefore, turns to God for His divine help to bear the painful shock and the irreparable loss.

**CRITICAL APPRECIATION:**

The auditory image of 'shrieks' depicts the dreadful atmosphere of mourning. The phrase 'shrieks in stock' implies intensity of sorrow and the unquenchable grief. The rhyme scheme in these lines is AAB.

**LINES 9-11**

*Flare up flames in heart to height,  
For, visible is not charming sight.  
What should I do, O God! Aghast!*

**EXPLANATION:**

The poet describes his anguish and agony that he feels over the departure of his friend. He says that the separation has set a fire in his heart. The fire of separation is engulfing his soul. The unbearable suffocation finds no way out, and the poet's soul is afame with the fire of grief. He finds it impossible to survive without the charming sight of his beloved friend. The world has lost all charm and attraction. His heart sinks, the world darkens and hope dies. He seeks God's help in his utter helplessness. The death of his friend consumes his heart and wounds his soul.

**CRITICAL APPRECIATION:**

The poet has used fire as a symbol of love. The fire of love burns all impurities of soul and helps reach spiritual sublimation. The sonic effect of the alliteration in the phrase 'Flare up flames' lends beauty and melody to a dreadful image of destruction. The rhyme scheme in these lines is AAB.

**LINES 12-14**

*Without His love, Bullah in loss,  
Can hardly dwell here or across.  
What should I do, O God! Aghast!*

**EXPLANATION:**

In these lines Bullah Shah expresses his total submission to the will of God. He describes the utter helplessness of the mortals. The world, close relations, beloved friends and material things are nothing but illusions. Only God's love is a key to success both in this world and in the hereafter. He believes that it is God's love that enables us to suffer insufferable pains and irreparable losses in life. God's love gives us strength to bear the burden of life boldly and patiently. Without God's love we are in loss both in this world and in the world to come.

**CRITICAL APPRECIATION:**

The mystic poet, Bullah Shah's poetry is a reflection and interpretation of the Quran. The poet sums up in the last lines of the poem what we call the essence of Islamic teachings. The rhyme scheme in these lines is AAB.

**TEXTBOOK EXERCISE**

- Q.1** When does a person remember God? OR (4 Times)  
When does a person remember God, according to Bullah Shah? OR (2 Times)  
When does a person remember God and Why? (1 Time)

**In Adversity and Misfortune**

**Ans.** A person remembers God when he feels helpless and friendless. He remembers God when he finds himself without God's love or when he suffers a great loss. He remembers God in adversity and misfortune. It is quite natural with humans to turn to supernatural power in hard times.

- Q.2** What is the effect of the death scene? OR (6 Times)  
What are the poet's ideas on death? (1 Time)

**It Makes Everybody Sad**

**Ans.** The death scene makes everybody sad and the whole environment mournful. It burns a flame of grief in the poet's heart because his beloved friend is breathing his last. There are cries of pain and screams of anguish where the dead body lies. The poet says that death separates us from our near and dear ones, but it unites us to our creator, God Almighty.

- Q.3** Why does a person feel helpless on the death of a friend? (13 Times)

**Unable to do Anything**

**Ans.** A person feels helpless on the death of a friend because he is unable to do anything for the departing soul. With the death of his friend, a person is left lonely and desolate. His hope dies, strength weakens and pride vanishes. Our helplessness on a friend's death is natural, and it makes us look to God for His help.

- Q.4 Without whose love is Bullah in loss? OR**  
**Without whose love is Bullah in loss and why? OR** (13 Times)  
**What, according to Bullah Shah, is the great loss of man? OR** (1 Time)  
**What lesson do we get from the poem, "My Neighbour Friend Breathing His Last"?** (1 Time)

Without God's Love

**Ans.** Bullah Shah says that without God's love he is in loss. He believes that it is God's love that enables us to suffer insufferable pains and irreparable losses in life. God's love gives us strength to bear the burden of life boldly and patiently. Without God's love we are in loss both in this world and in the world to come.

- Q.5 What does the poet mean by the phrase 'decamping talk'?** (2 Times)

**Ans.** The phrase 'decamping talk' denotes talk about leaving this world and returning to our creator and our eternal abode. The poet describes the scene of death of his beloved friend where people are talking about the departed soul, the transient nature of life and their own approaching death.

**MCQS FOR PRACTICE**

- Who is dying in the poem, 'My Neighbour Friend Breathing His Last'?**  
 (a) the poet's spiritual guide (c) the poet's relative  
 (b) the poet's follower (d) the poet's disciple
- What is the condition of the poet on the death of his neighbour friend?**  
 (a) excited (c) surprised  
 (b) captivated (d) horrified
- When is Bullah in loss?**  
 (a) without his mother (c) without God's love  
 (b) without wealth (d) without health
- Without whose love Bullah Shah can hardly dwell here or across?**  
 (a) his neighbour friend (c) his beloved friend  
 (b) his companions (d) God Almighty
- Who wrote the poem, "My Neighbour Friend Breathing His Last"?**  
 (a) Sachal Sarmast (c) Bullah Shah  
 (b) Jalaluddin Rumi (d) Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi

**ANSWER KEY**

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

**SYNONYMS FROM PAST PAPERS**

- On every side decamping talk.** (4 Times)  
 (a) charming (b) laughing (c) departing (d) confusing
- What should I do O God! aghast!** (2 Times)  
 (a) shook (b) ghost (c) exalted (d) terrified
- Companions ready to catch the train.** (1 Time)  
 (a) friends (b) callers (c) visitors (d) travelers

4. Can hardly  dwell here or across. (1 Time)  
 (a) anchor (b) live (c) depart (d) sustain
5. At every place are  shrieks in stock. (1 Time)  
 (a) laughs (b) cries (c) smiles (d) happiness
6. There are  shrieks in stock. (1 Time)  
 (a) awaiting (b) consumed (c) decreased (d) encamped

**ANSWER KEY**

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

1. My neighbour friend  breathing his last!  
 (a) dying (c) breathing calmly  
 (b) perspiring (d) gasping
2. At every place are  shrieks in stock.  
 (a) in abundance (c) in action  
 (b) in a hurry (d) in triumph
3.  Flare up flames in heart to height.  
 (a) burn (c) flicker  
 (b) extinguish (d) end
4. For,  visible is not charming sight.  
 (a) vague (c) obvious  
 (b) lasting (d) touchable
5. Bullah Can hardly  dwell here or across.  
 (a) on the other side (c) beyond the border  
 (b) in the hereafter (d) outside

**ANSWER KEY**

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