

Faith is like Abraham at the **stake**; to be  
 Self-honoring and **God-drunk**, is faith. Hear me,  
 You whom this age's way so **captivate**!  
 To have no faith is **worse** than **slavery**.  
 Music of strange lands with Islam's fire **blends**,  
 On which the nation's **harmony** depends;  
 Empty of **concord** is the soul of Europe,  
 Whose **civilization** to no Makkah bends.  
 Love's madness has **departed**: in  
 The Muslim's **veins** the blood runs thin;  
**Ranks** broken, hearts **perplexed**, prayers **cold**,  
 No feeling deeper than the skin.

ایمان حضرت ابراہیم کی طرح خمر ناک (آگ) میں کود جاتا ہے،  
 ایمان عزت نفس اور اللہ تعالیٰ کی محبت سے سرشار ہوتا ہے۔ سنو،  
 وہ لوگ جو تہذیب حاضر کی دکھائی میں گرفتار ہیں!  
 ایمان کا نہ ہونا غلامی سے بھی بدتر ہے  
 غیر عرب (عجمی) سرزمین کی ہم آہنگی اسلامی جذبہ میں ہے،  
 اسی پر ہی اقوام کا اتحاد منحصر ہے؛  
 روح مغرب اتحاد سے خالی ہے،  
 تہذیب مغرب کا کوئی حرم پاک نہیں ہے۔  
 محبت کا جنون باقی نہیں رہا:  
 مسلمانوں کی رگوں میں خون پتلا ہو گیا ہے؛  
 صفیں ٹوٹی ہوئی، دل پریشان اور نمازیں بے ذوق ہیں،  
 احساس جلد سے گہرا نہیں ہے۔

WORDS	URDU	SYNONYMS	WORDS	URDU	SYNONYMS
<b>stake</b>	خطرہ	<b>in danger</b> , frame, pole, post	<b>captivate</b>	پُرکشش ہونا	<b>attract, fascinate</b> , charm
<b>perplexed</b>	پریشان	<b>upset, confused</b> , puzzled, confused	<b>slavery</b>	غلامی	<b>bondage</b> , captivity
<b>harmony</b>	ہم آہنگی	<b>unity</b> , combination, accord	<b>departed</b>	چلے جانا	<b>died</b> , gone, lost
<b>worse</b>	بدتر	<b>inferior</b> , poorer	<b>ranks</b>	صفیں	<b>lines</b> , files, column, rows
<b>civilization</b>	تہذیب	<b>culture</b> , advancement	<b>cold</b>	بے جان	lifeless, spiritless
<b>concord</b>	اتحاد	<b>unity</b> , harmony, agreement	<b>veins</b>	رگیں	blood vessels
<b>God-drunk</b>	خدا کی محبت میں سرشار	<b>love of Allah</b>	<b>blends</b>	ملانا	mixes, merges, combines

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

*Faith is like Abraham at the stake: to be  
Self-honoring and God-drunk, is faith. Hear me,  
You whom this age's way so captivate!  
To have no faith is worse than slavery.*

**REFERENCE:**

These lines have been taken from the poem "Ruba'iyat" by Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

**CONTEXT:**

The present state of the Muslims is pitiable. They have become slaves to materialistic gains and attractions of the modern world. They do not have strong faith that brings courage, independence, and self-honour.

**EXPLANATION:**

The poet says that faith should be like that of Hazrat Abraham who was thrown into fire by his enemies, but he remained unharmed. The poet adds that true faith brings self-honour and love of God. Faith means total submission to the will of Allah. The poet addresses the Muslims who are attracted by the attractions of the world, and tells them that to lose faith in Allah is worse than slavery. He means to say that even a slave has some hope of freedom, but a person without faith lives in total darkness of despair and disappointment. Faithlessness denotes hopelessness and emptiness of soul. So, the first Ruba'iyah or 'quatrain' defines true faith and explains the regrettable condition of the Muslims.

**CRITICAL APPRECIATION:**

Iqbal's poetry is full of allusions to the grand history of the Muslims. The poet mentions the Prophet Abraham, a great iconoclast, the breaker of idols, as a symbol of ideal faith in Allah. The rhyme scheme in these lines is AABA.

**LINES 5-8**

*Music of strange lands with Islam's fire blends, (2 Times)  
On which the nation's harmony depends:  
Empty of concord is the soul of Europe,  
Whose civilization to no Makkah bends.*

**EXPLANATION:**

Iqbal says that the nation's harmony depends on 'the music of strange lands' that blends with Islam's fire. 'Music of strange lands' stands for ideologies and philosophies of non-Arab or foreign civilizations. Islam as a religion is powerful enough to sink all differences and unite people with different colours, races and castes into a single nation. The poet stresses that Islamic culture, ideology and teachings can create harmony and unity among all nations. The poet discloses the causes of disunity and disharmony among the Europeans. He says that they are spiritually dead because they have no such binding force as Makkah which unites all the believers into a single nation.

**CRITICAL APPRECIATION:**

The poet uses the metaphor of Islam's fire to indicate that Islam is powerful enough to sink all differences and unite different races. The fire removes rusting and purifies a metal. The rhyme scheme in these lines is AABA.

**LINES 9-12**

*Love's madness has departed, in  
The Muslim's veins the blood runs thin;  
Ranks broken, hearts perplexed, prayers cold,  
No feeling deeper than the skin.*

(7 Times)

**EXPLANATION:**

Here the poet describes the causes of the Muslims' decline. The poet says that the Muslims have lost the intensity of love for Allah Almighty. They have no faith in Allah as their forefathers had. They have lost the spirit of Islam, and they follow only rituals. They are deprived of the traits of their ancestors like unity, harmony, sincerity, devotion, courage and self-honour. They depend upon the Europeans who are spiritually dead and who are running after material gains. Iqbal regrets the miserable condition of the Muslims whose spark of love is dead. The Muslims are deprived of peace of mind and spiritual bliss because the blood running in their veins has lost its warmth.

**CRITICAL APPRECIATION:**

The use of alliteration in the phrase 'hearts perplexed, prayers cold' creates beautiful sonic effect with the repetition of 'p'. 'Ranks broken' stands for disunity, disharmony and disintegration. The rhyme scheme in these lines is AABA.

**TEXTBOOK EXERCISE**

**Q.1 Who was Hazrat Abraham (A.S)?** (4 Times)

**Prophet and Messenger**

**Ans.** Hazrat Abraham was Allah's prophet and messenger who was thrown into fire by his opponents. He was saved by his unwavering faith in God. Abraham, known as 'Khalilullah', plays a prominent role as an example of true faith in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. He was a great iconoclast, the breaker of idols.

**Q.2 What is worse than slavery? OR** (8 Times)  
**What does Iqbal call those who have no faith?** (1 Time)

**To Have No Faith**

**Ans.** According to Iqbal, to have no faith is worse than slavery. The poet means to say that even a slave has some hope of freedom, but a person without faith lives in total darkness of despair and disappointment. So, faithlessness is hopelessness and emptiness of soul.

- Q.3 Who cannot compete with the civilization of Makkah? OR (5 Times)**  
**Why is the soul of Europe empty of concord? (1 Time)**

**Europe Cannot Compete**

**Ans.** Europe cannot compete with the civilization of Makkah, because Europe (West) is devoid of faith in God. So, the Westerners have no such binding force as Makkah has, which unites the Muslims living on different continents with different races, castes, and cultures.

- Q.4 What has made the efforts of the Muslims fruitless? OR (14 Times)**  
**What drawbacks of the Muslims were pointed out by Allama Iqbal in "Ruba'iyat"?**  
**OR (1 Time)**  
**Why is Iqbal worried about the faith of the Muslims? OR (1 Time)**  
**What does Iqbal say in 'Ruba'iyat' about the miserable condition of the Muslims? (1 Time)**

**Shallow Faith in God**

**Ans.** Muslims' shallow faith in God, their disharmony and the allurements of the modern age have made their efforts fruitless. The spark of love is dead, and the blood in their veins has lost its warmth. They depend on the Europeans who are spiritually dead. Muslims' prayers are, therefore, lifeless and their hearts disturbed.

- Q.5 What is the moral lesson of the poem? OR (2 Times)**  
**What sort of faith should the Muslims have? OR (1 Time)**  
**What is the theme of Iqbal's "Ruba'iyat"? OR (1 Time)**  
**What is real faith? (Ruba'iyat) OR (1 Time)**  
**What is needed by the Muslims to get glory as pointed out by Iqbal? (1 Time)**

**Strong Faith like Abraham's**

**Ans.** Strong faith like Abraham's is required in this age of glamor and temptation. True faith in God gives us courage, freedom and self-honour. It frees us from the shackles of race, colour, creed, and caste. It unites the Muslims into universal brotherhood.

- Q.6 What is the present state of the Muslims? OR (3 Times)**  
**What is the present state of the Muslims as given in the last stanza of the poem "Ruba'iyat"?**

**Pathetic and Pitiabie**

**Ans.** The present state of the Muslims is pathetic and pitiabie. The spark of love is dead, and the blood in their veins has lost its warmth. Their prayers are lifeless, ranks broken and hearts disturbed. Iqbal says that without true faith in God, all our religious practices are meaningless.

- Q.7 On what does the nation's harmony depend? OR (1 Time)**  
**What, according to Iqbal, blends with Islam's fire? (1 Time)**

**Music of Strange Lands**

**Ans.** The nation's harmony depends on 'the music of strange lands' that blends with Islam's fire. 'Music of strange lands' stands for ideologies and philosophies of foreign cultures. Islam as a religion is powerful enough to sink all differences and unite people with different colours, races and castes into a single nation.

- Q.8 Explain the last two lines in the second stanza of the poem, 'Ruba'iyat'.**

**Ans.** For answer see, EXPLANATION WITH REFERENCE TO THE CONTEXT.

**MCQS FOR PRACTICE**

1. **What kind of faith should the Muslims have?**  
 (a) like Abraham (c) like Joseph  
 (b) like Moses (d) like Noan
2. **Faith is self-honoring and \_\_\_\_\_.**  
 (a) self-drunk (c) captivating  
 (b) God-drunk (d) distracting
3. **To have no faith is worse than \_\_\_\_\_.**  
 (a) salvation (c) misery  
 (b) poverty (d) slavery
4. **Music of strange lands with Islam's \_\_\_\_\_ blends.**  
 (a) fire (c) rules  
 (b) values (d) loyalty
5. **Empty of concord is the \_\_\_\_\_ of Europe.**  
 (a) land (c) soul  
 (b) music (d) faith
6. **Love's madness has \_\_\_\_\_.**  
 (a) resisted (c) retained  
 (b) departed (d) joined
7. **In the Muslims' veins the blood runs \_\_\_\_\_.**  
 (a) thin (c) thick  
 (b) warm (d) cold
8. **Ranks broken, hearts perplexed, prayers \_\_\_\_\_.**  
 (a) cold (c) bold  
 (b) delayed (d) postponed
9. **No feeling deeper than the \_\_\_\_\_.**  
 (a) faith (c) skin  
 (b) blood (d) head
10. **Who wrote the poem, "Ruba'iyat"?**  
 (a) Sachal Sarmast (c) Allama Iqbal  
 (b) Jalaluddin Rumi (d) Bullah Shah

**ANSWER KEY**

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

**SYNONYMS FROM PAST PAPERS**

1. **Empty of concord is the soul of Europe.** (9 Times)  
 (a) peace (b) freedom (c) faith (d) unity
2. **Muslims' hearts are perplexed.** (5 Times)  
 (a) over joyed (b) pleased (c) upset (d) satisfied  
 (a) confused (b) prosperous (c) prominent (d) closed
3. **On which nation's harmony depends.** (3 Times)  
 (a) discard (b) strength (c) unity (d) status

4. **You whom this age's way so captivate.** (3 Times)  
 (a) attract (b) ugly (c) avoid (d) confess  
 (a) confused (b) fascinate (c) troublesome (d) lofty
5. **To have no faith is worse than slavery.** (2 Times)  
 (a) bondage (b) freedom (c) liberty (d) home
6. **The real faith should be like that of Abraham when he faced the stake.** (1 Time)  
 (a) out of anger (b) in protection (c) in safety (d) in danger
7. **To have no faith is worse than slavery.** (1 Time)  
 (a) like (b) better (c) equal (d) inferior
8. **Love's madness has departed.** (1 Time)  
 (a) died (b) organized (c) rested (d) cried
9. **The Muslims' ranks are broken.** (1 Time)  
 (a) honours (b) union (c) grades (d) lines
10. **Whose civilization to no Makkah bends?** (1 Time)  
 (a) culture (b) arts (c) progress (d) myth
11. **The Muslims should be God-drunk.** (1 Time)  
 (a) love of Allah (b) drinker of wine (c) lover of wealth (d) rich man

**ANSWER KEY**

1.	D	2.	C/A	3.	C	4.	A/B	5.	A	6.	D	7.	D	8.	A	9.	D	10.	A	11.	A
----	---	----	-----	----	---	----	-----	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	-----	---	-----	---

**MORE SYNONYMS FOR PRACTICE**

1. **Faith is like Abraham at stake.**  
 (a) belief (c) disloyalty  
 (b) honour (d) hope
2. **Music of strange lands with Islam's fire blends.**  
 (a) merges (c) burns  
 (b) splits (d) scorches
3. **Ranks broken, hearts perplexed, prayers cold.**  
 (a) effective (c) passionless  
 (b) useful (d) outstanding
4. **The Muslim's veins the blood runs thin;**  
 (a) blood clots (c) blood groups  
 (b) blood cells (d) blood vessels
5. **Empty of concord is the soul of Europe.**  
 (a) destruction (c) spirit  
 (b) body (d) attraction

**ANSWER KEY**

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