

We are the **hollow** men

We are the **stuffed** men

**Leaning** together

**Headpiece** filed with straw. **Alas.**

Our dried voices, when

We whisper together

Are quiet and meaningless

As wind in dry grass

Or rats' feet over broken glass

In our dry **cellar**.

Shape without form, shade without colour,

**Paralyzed** force, **gesture** without motion;

Those who have crossed

With direct eyes, to death's other Kingdom

Remember us – if at all – not as lost

Violent souls, but only

As the hollow men

The stuffed men.

ہم کھوکھلے انسان ہیں

ہم بھس بھرے انسان ہیں

ایک دوسرے کا سہارا لیتے ہوئے

افسوس، دماغ میں بھس بھرا ہوا ہے

ہماری بے تاثر آوازیں جب

ہم سرگوشیاں کرتے ہیں

دھیمی اور بے مقصد ہیں

جیسے خشک گھاس میں ہوا (چلے)

یا ٹوٹے ہوئے شیشوں پر چوہوں کے (چلتے ہوئے) پاؤں

ہمارے بجز تہ خانوں (ویران شراب خانوں) میں

شکل بغیر کسی تناسب کے، سایہ بغیر کسی رنگ کے

مفلوج قوت، انداز بغیر حرکت کے

وہ جو عبور کر کے جا چکے

موت کی آنکھوں میں آنکھیں ڈال کے، موت کی دوسری سلطنت میں

ہمیں یاد کرتے ہیں۔ اگر کبھی کریں تو۔ بطور گمشدہ نہیں

جاریت پسند (جنگجو) کے طور پر بھی نہیں، بلکہ صرف

بطور کھوکھلے انسان

ہم بھس بھرے انسان

WORDS	URDU	SYNONYMS	WORDS	URDU	SYNONYMS
<b>paralyzed</b>	مفلوج	<b>disabled</b> , helpless, immobile	<b>leaning</b>	جھکا	bending, inclining, bowing
<b>hollow</b>	کھوکھلے	<b>void</b> , empty, shallow	<b>stuffed</b>	بھس بھرے	not real, filled
<b>gesture</b>	اشارہ	<b>move</b> , signal, motion	<b>headpiece</b>	دماغ	head covering, brain, mind
<b>alas</b>	افسوس	sadly, unfortunately, tragically	<b>cellar</b>	تہ خانہ	basement, go down

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

*We are the hollow men  
We are the stuffed men  
Leaning together  
Headpiece filled with straw. Alas!*

(1 Time)

**REFERENCE:**

These lines have been taken from the poem "The Hollow Men" by T.S. Eliot.

**CONTEXT:**

T.S. Eliot says modern man has deprived himself of all the heritage that once marked the glory of his ancestors. He is, therefore, spiritually dead and intellectually paralyzed.

**EXPLANATION:**

The poet criticizes the modern age and modern men. He says that men are deprived of faith and moral strength. Instead of good human characteristics, they are filled with useless and worthless material. Being stuffed men or dummies, they are unable to play a positive or constructive role. The poet regrets that modern men are deprived of vision and wisdom. Their heads are filled with stupidity and nonsense. Consequently, modern men have failed to build any welfare society. They do not possess enviable qualities as their ancestors had.

**CRITICAL APPRECIATION:**

The metaphor of 'stuffed' is used to convey the idea that modern men are apparently human beings, but their actions and words show that they are cowardly, stupid and characterless. The use of exclamatory sign implies the intensity of the worst condition in which modern men are living. The interjection 'alas' expresses painful helplessness of the hollow men.

**LINES 5-8**

*Our dried voices, when  
We whisper together  
Are quiet and meaningless  
As wind in dry grass*

(3 Times)

**EXPLANATION:**

The phrase "dried voices" denotes ineffective communication. Modern men always discuss ordinary matters and talk about unimportant issues. That's why, there is no communication between them at all. The poet compares dried or dead voices of hollow men to the wind blowing in dry or dead grass. As wind blowing in dead grass is meaningless or of no use at all, the dead voices, when people whisper to each other, are useless and meaningless.

**CRITICAL APPRECIATION:**

The word 'whisper' denotes cowardice, impotency and fear. The phrase 'dried voices' implies ineffective, dull and meaningless communication. Through the use of simile, the poet taps on a very important issue of the breakdown of communication in the modern age.

**LINES 8-10**

*As wind in dry grass  
Or rats' feet over broken glass  
In our dry cellar.*

**EXPLANATION:**

Their unresponsive and meaningless voices are unable to produce any result. Their purposeless and obscure voices are like the rustling of wind in dry grass or like the sound produced by the rats moving in some underground store-room on the broken pieces of glass. In the same unimportant and worthless conversation, the hollow men are indulged in.

**CRITICAL APPRECIATION:**

The poet has used the similes of 'wind in dry grass' and 'rats' feet over broken glass' to convey the meaninglessness of the words spoken by the hollow men. The absence of any rhyme scheme in these lines shows the absence of meaning and purpose in the life of the hollow men.

**LINES 11-12**

*Shape without form, shade without colour,  
Paralysed force, gesture without motion;*

(2 Times)

**EXPLANATION:**

Apparently modern men have human shape but they lack strength of moral character. They are only the shadows of human beings, deprived of moral values and good qualities. Their gestures or expressions are meaningless and insignificant. They are dull and vague, devoid of any spark of life. The image 'shape without form' suggests that the hollow men have no real identity. They have lost all good qualities like faith, courage, wisdom and character. They are now just stuffed men.

**CRITICAL APPRECIATION:**

The poet has used a couple of oxymoron in these lines like 'paralysed force', 'stuffed men' 'shape without form' and 'gesture without motion'. The phrase 'paralyzed force' denotes ineffectiveness and helplessness of the hollow men. The images 'shape without form' and 'gesture without motion' show the absence of meaning and purpose in the life of the hollow men.

**LINES 13-18**

*Those who have crossed* (2 Times)  
*With direct eyes, to death's other Kingdom*  
*Remember us – if at all – not as lost*  
*Violent souls, but only*  
*As the hollow men*  
*The stuffed men*

**EXPLANATION:**

The poet addresses the departed souls to remember modern men not as lost, violent souls, but only as worthless men. The poet says that the ancestors of the modern hollow men were men of character. The hollow men are devoid of faith and moral strength. They are only puppets controlled by their animal instincts. The poet says that the hollow men's ancestors left rich heritage behind for the people to benefit from. But it is a pity that modern men are devoid of all good qualities like courage, faith and wisdom.

**CRITICAL APPRECIATION:**

The metaphor of 'stuffed' is used to convey the idea that the modern men are apparently human beings, but their empty words and superficial actions show that they cannot do anything for the good of humanity. The absence of any rhyme scheme in these lines shows the absence of meaning and purpose in the life of the hollow men.

**TEXTBOOK EXERCISE**

- Q.1** Why does the poet call modern men hollow men? OR (16 Times)  
 Why have we been termed as hollow men? OR (2 Times)  
 Who has been called "The Hollow Men"? OR (2 Times)  
 What does the title of the poem, "The Hollow Men" suggest? OR (1 Time)  
 Why does the poet consider hollow men useless for a nation? OR (1 Time)  
 Who have been called hollow men by T.S. Eliot? Explain. OR (1 Time)  
 What do hollow men mean? OR (1 Time)  
 How are we "The Hollow Men" according to the poet? OR (1 Time)  
 What does the phrase "the stuffed men" mean? (1 Time)

**The Hollow Men**

**Ans.** T.S Eliot says that modern men are hollow and stuffed because they have lost all good qualities like faith, courage, wisdom and character. He says that their heads are filled with nonsense. They are spiritually dead and intellectually paralyzed. The title of the poem sums up the emptiness of the modern men.

- Q.2** Write a critical note on the poem, 'The Hollow Men'.  
 Give the central idea of the poem "The Hollow Men". OR (2 Times)  
 How is the poem, "The Hollow Men" a criticism on modern society? (1 Time)

**Central Idea of the Poem**

**Ans.** T.S. Eliot says modern man is deprived of all the heritage that once marked the glory of his ancestors. He is, therefore, spiritually dead and intellectually paralyzed. The poem is a criticism and satire on modern society, which is devoid of vision, wisdom and rationale.

- Q.3** What does the poet say in the last stanza of the poem, ‘The Hollow Men’? OR  
What is the poet trying to say in the last stanza of the poem “The Hollow Men”?  
(1 Time)

**Last Stanza of the Poem**

- Ans.** The poet says that modern men have lost all good qualities of human beings like faith, courage, vision, wisdom, and character. The poet addresses the departed souls to remember modern men not as lost, violent souls, but only as worthless men.

- Q.4** Give a summary of the poem, ‘The Hollow Men’.

**Summary of the Poem**

- Ans.** The poet says that we are worthless men. We try to depend upon each other and our minds are filled with nonsense. We try to speak to each other but convey nothing. We have no form, shape or colour. We do not have the character and strength of our forefathers who died bravely.

**SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM PAST PAPERS**

- Q.1** How do the voices of hollow men resemble? OR  
With what does the poet compare the whispers of “The Hollow Men”?  
(1 Time) (1 Time)

**Wind Blowing in Dry Grass**

- Ans.** The voices of hollow men resemble the wind blowing in the dry grass. The poet compares the uselessness and futility of the two actions – dead voices whispering together and the wind blowing in the dead grass. Their words are hollow like themselves. They stand for emptiness, stupidity and cowardice.

- Q.2** What does the phrase “gesture without motion” mean?  
(1 Time)

**Absence of Meaning**

- Ans.** The phrase “gesture without motion” means the absence of meaning or purpose in modern men’s life. Their gestures are dull and vague, having no spark of life. The image refers to a very important issue of the breakdown of communication in the modern age.

**TEXTBOOK EXERCISE**

1. The poet calls men \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) hungry (b) hollow (c) thirsty (d) cruel
2. This poem has been written by \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Keats (b) W.B. Yeats (c) T.S. Eliot (d) Byron
3. The title of the poem is \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) The Hollow Men (b) Hollow Man (c) The Hollow Man (d) Hollow Men
4. We convey \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) nothing (b) anything (c) something (d) a few words

5. We are hollow \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) men (c) boys  
 (b) women (d) girls
6. Or rats' feet over broken \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) table (c) glass  
 (b) chair (c) mirror
7. Remember us, if at all, not as \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) lost (c) found  
 (b) unwise (d) hungry
8. Violent souls, but \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) only (c) really  
 (b) dead (d) alive

**ANSWER KEY**

1.	B	2.	C	3.	A	4.	A	5.	A	6.	C	7.	A	8.	A
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**MORE MCQS FOR PRACTICE**

1. The hollow men have shape without \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) form (c) figure  
 (b) colour (d) action
2. The hollow men have gesture without \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) movement (c) feeling  
 (b) motion (d) passion
3. Headpiece filled with \_\_\_\_\_. Alas!  
 (a) wisdom (c) grass  
 (b) vision (d) straw
4. The voices of the hollow men are \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) shrill (c) dried  
 (b) hushed (d) resonant
5. Our dried voices are quiet and \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) meaningful (c) cowardly  
 (b) meaningless (d) weak

**ANSWER KEY**

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

1. We are the hollow men. (1 Time)  
 (a) fragile (b) weak (c) void (d) brave
2. Paralyzed force, gesture without motion. (1 Time)  
 (a) speed (b) move (c) pace (d) action
3. The poet in "The Hollow Men" says that we are paralyzed force. (1 Time)  
 (a) poor (b) powerful (c) disabled (d) rich

**ANSWER KEY**

1.	C	2.	D	3.	C
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**MORE SYNONYMS FOR PRACTICE**

1. We are the stuffed men.

- (a) successful (c) strong  
(b) rough (d) not real

2. We whisper together.

- (a) shout (c) murmur  
(b) scream (d) moan

3. Our dried voice are quiet and meaningless

- (a) useless (c) casual  
(b) muted (d) careless

4. ... In our dry cellar.

- (a) torture cell (c) underground store  
(b) battery (d) salesman

5. Leaning together

- (a) lying (c) whispering  
(b) pacing (d) bending

**ANSWER KEY**

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