
Brief Questions in Kazi Nazrul Islam's poems

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- **Who is Nazrul Islam?**

Ans:

He is the Rebel Poet and Bangladesh's National Poet.

- **What was Nazrul's nickname in early life?**

Ans:

He was called Dukhu Miah, meaning "sad man."

- **Which theatre did Nazrul join in boyhood?**

Ans:

He joined his uncle's Ito folk theatre group.

- **Which Kaviyal group did Nazrul join?**

Ans:

He joined a group under Bashudev.

- **Did Nazrul pass the Matriculation Examination?**

Ans:

No, he did not sit for it.

- **Why did Nazrul join the Indian Army?**

Ans:

For adventure and due to political stirrings.

- **What was Nazrul's first prose work?**

Ans:

Baunduler Atmakahini in May 1919.

- **What was Nazrul's first poem?**

Ans:

"Mukti," published in July 1919.

- **On what charge was Nazrul arrested?**

Ans:

He was arrested for sedition.

- **How did Nazrul criticise the Khilafat Movement?**

Ans:

He called it hollow religious fundamentalism.

- **When was Nazrul brought to Dhaka?**

Ans:

On 24 May 1972.

- **When was Nazrul given Bangladesh citizenship?**

Ans:

In February 1976.

- **Where was Nazrul buried?**

Ans:

Beside a mosque at Dhaka University.

- **When did India award him Padma Bhushan?**

Ans:

In 1960.

- **Which poem of Samyabadi declares equality?**

Ans:

"Of Equality and That Happy Land."

- **Which scriptures are cited in that poem?**

Ans:

Quran, Vedas, Bible, Zend-Avesta, Granth-Sahib.

- **What is the source of truth and wisdom?**

Ans:

One's own self, the soul.

- **Where did Jesus and Moses find truth?**

Ans:

In the heart, God's inner temple.

- **Where did young Krishna sing the Geeta?**

Ans:

From the battlefield within the heart.

- **In which cave did Shakyam hear mankind's cry?**

Ans:

In the meditative cave of the heart.

- **Who was the Darling of Arabia?**

Ans:

Prophet Muhammad (SM).

- **Where did he receive the message of equality?**

Ans:

In the heart, through revelation.

- **How does the poem on equality conclude?**

Ans:

The heart is greater than any temple.

- **Which poem reveals Nazrul's mysticism most?**

Ans:

“Of Equality and That Happy Land.”

- **What is Samyabadi mainly about?**

Ans:

Spiritual and social equality through humanism.

- **How to acquire wisdom in “Samyabadi”?**

Ans:

Open the heart through study and devotion.

- **Which collection includes “Manush (Man)”?**

Ans:

Samyabadi (1925).

- **What did the priest find at his door?**

Ans:

A starving beggar in rags.

- **How did the priest react?**

Ans:

He slammed the door shut.

- **Why was the Mollah at the mosque happy?**

Ans:

He got many leftovers of offerings.

- **What did the hungry traveller tell the Mollah?**

Ans:

He had starved for seven days.

- **Who was Chengis?**

Ans: Genghis Khan, founder of the Mongol Empire.

1. Who was Mahmood of Ghazni?

Ans:

A powerful ruler who invaded India.

- **Who are iconoclasts?**

Ans:

Destroyers of religious images, like Kalapahar.

- **What status does Nazrul give to man?**

Ans:

“Man is above everything.”

- **What is the message of “Manush (Man)”?**

Ans:

Humanism is higher than hollow rituals.

- **Why did the Mollah drive away the traveller?**

Ans:

He never prayed, so was rejected.

- **Which poem has these lines on the heart-temple?**

Ans:

“Of Equality and That Happy Land.”

- **Why was the Mollah happy in “Man”?**

Ans:

For the abundant leftover food.

- **Who is a Bedouin?**

Ans:

An Arab desert-dwelling nomad.

- **What backdrop birthed “Kandari Hushiar”?**

Ans:

Hindu-Muslim riots around 1926.

- **What kind of song is it?**

Ans:

A patriotic chorus-song.

- **Where did Nazrul sing “Kandari Hushiar”?**

Ans:

At the Congress session, Krishnanagar, 1926.

- **What is its main theme?**

Ans:

Urging Hindu-Muslim unity for freedom.

- **Who is the “Captain” there?**

Ans:

The Indian National Congress leadership.

- **What does “Beware My Captain” allegorize?**

Ans:

India’s freedom voyage through storms.

- **Which images symbolize danger?**

Ans:

Desert, hills, dark night, storms, thunder.

- **What does the storm symbolize?**

Ans:

Communal riots disrupting freedom.

- **Who “sang the victory of life”?**

Ans:

Martyrs who died for their motherland.

- **What “test” does the poet mention?**

Ans:

The great ordeal of the freedom struggle.

- **Who is the Captain (repeated)?**

Ans:

The Congress leaders guiding India.

- **Why is the Himalayan peak cast down?**

Ans:

Awed by the valorous heads held high.

- **When did Nazrul write “Bidrohi”?**

Ans:

In December 1921.

- **Who is the angry God on the rebel’s brow?**

Ans:

Rudra, the Vedic storm-god.

- **What does Rudra represent?**

Ans:

Fierceness and terror.

- **Name tropical storms likened to the rebel.**

Ans:

Cyclone, hurricane, typhoon, tornado, tempest.

- **“I am the dance-intoxicated rhythm”—meaning?**

Ans:

The rebel echoes Shiva, lord of dance.

- **Who is the king of great upheaval?**

Ans:

Shiva, the cosmic transformer.

- **What are Hambeer, Chhayana, Hindole?**

Ans:

Classical musical modes.

- **Which words suggest destruction or end?**

Ans:

Plague, death, graveyard, bugle, falling stars.

- **How is the rebel both creator and destroyer?**

Ans:

He bears cosmic power to do both.

- **Who is Indrani?**

Ans:

Indra's queen, goddess of wrath and jealousy.

- **Who was Chengis (repeated)?**

Ans:

Genghis Khan, Mongol emperor.

- **How is Brahma's sound described?**

Ans:

As the creative sound of the universe.

- **What is Israfil's bugle's role?**

Ans:

Its blast will end the universe.

- **Who is the king of truth?**

Ans:

Yudhishthira of Hindu lore.

- **What are Chakra and Shankha?**

Ans:

Vishnu's discus and conch.

- **Who is Vishwamitra (Bishyamitra)?**

Ans:

A sage who rose to Brahminhood.

- **Who is Durvasa (Durbasha)?**

Ans:

A sage famed for his fierce temper.

- **Who is "the trembling first touch of the virgin"?**

Ans:

The rebel's tender, awakening force.

- **What makes the virgin tremble and throb?**

Ans:

Her first secret kiss with a lover.

- **Who is the shy village maiden?**

Ans:

A girl unsettled by budding youth.

- **What sound do her bangles make?**

Ans:

A bright, jingling music.

- **Name two famous flute-players mentioned.**

Ans:

Orpheus and Sri Krishna.

- **How is the mighty flood double-natured?**

Ans:

It destroys, yet renews fertility.

- **What are two “girls” on Vishnu’s bosom?**

Ans

: Srivatsa mark and the Kaustubha jewel.

- **Who is Chandi?**

Ans:

Fierce Durga, slayer of demons.

- **Why is Parshurama’s axe called cruel?**

Ans:

He slew many Kshatriyas with it.

- **How does the rebel bring peace by killing?**

Ans:

By ending tyrants, peace can return.

- **Why compare him to Balarama’s plough?**

Ans:

He uproots misery like Balarama’s might.

- **What do flute and war-bugle signify together?**

Ans:

Creation and destruction held in balance.

- **What is Nazrul’s basic equality principle?**

Ans:

All humans are equal in dignity.

- **What does “thunder in the sky” symbolize?**

Ans:

The threat of British imperial power.

- **How does he address readers in “Man”?**

Ans:

He calls them “comrades.”

- **Who is Dhurjati?**

Ans:

A medieval Telugu poet devoted to Shiva.

- **What message does the rebel carry?**

Ans:

Revolt against injustice, earth to sky.

- **What will pacify the rebel?**

Ans:

A world free from the oppressed’s cries.

- **What is the trident of Pinakpani?**

Ans:

Shiva’s three-pronged spear.

- **When will the rebel rest in quiet?**

Ans:

When sky and air hold no groans.