

Explanation with question

(Ode to west wind

P.B. Shelley

1. "O, Wild west wind" - Whom does the poet address here ?

→ Through this apostrophe the poet, P.B. Shelley in his poem 'Ode to west wind' has addressed the west wind. To him, west wind is wild because of its wild nature and strength. In the poem the poet has established west wind to be a preserver and destroyer.

2. "yellow, pale, black and hectic red" -

→ All the colours are actually representative of absence of colour. Hectic means blushed. Poet, P.B. Shelley in his poem 'Ode to the west wind' has used these colours in order to say that the west wind never discriminates while blowing away objects on its way. Here we find poet's personal despondency, despair.

3. "Each like a corpse within its grave"
(1st stanza)

→ The line has been quoted from the poem 'Ode To The West Wind' of P.B. Shelley. Here 'its' are the seeds. A dead body lies inside a grave, likewise life lies cold and low, in a seed.

The revolutionary optimism of the poet can be well noticed here. Through this ~~line~~ simile, the poet has established life from death.

4. "wild Spirit, which art moving every-
(1st stanza) where." - Explain.

→ Through this apostrophe, the poet, Shelley, in his poem, 'Ode To The West Wind' has described the west wind to be spirit as well as wild. And to the poet, the west wind is not an object of pain and suffering which is very much physical, not spiritual. The effects of the west wind can be seen all through. The thought of ~~emp~~ omnipresence of God comes in the mind of the reader in this line.

5. The first stanza of the west wind
(1st stanza) relates to ...

the effects of the west wind on land, the earth. It blows everything on its way without doing any discrimination. It also causes regeneration. In this very stanza the poet has described the west wind to be 'wild spirit' and has explained it to be behind preservative as well as destruction.

6. "Angels of rain and lightning"
2nd
Stanza - who is the 'angel' here? Why it has been said so?

→ The west wind has been referred by 'the angel'. While describing the effect of the west wind on sky, the poet has said so. After the west wind is passed, it starts raining and thunder lights can be seen. So, west wind has been properly described as a messenger of rain and lightning.

7. "Like the bright Maenad!"
(2nd stanza)
— Describe the scenario.

→ This is a simile where maenad is the female worshipper of Bacchus, the God of wine. The blowing away cloudlets has been compared with the uplifting of hair from the face of the maenad. The job is not soft or swift anyway and that is why 'fierce' the word has been used.

8. "Thou dirge of the dying year...."
(2nd stanza)
— who is 'thou'? Explain the line.

→ In order to describe the effect of the west wind on sky P.B. Shelley in his poem 'Ode to the west wind' has composed the above portion. Here, 'thou' is west wind. West wind causes the starting of the ending of a year. 'Dirge' means funeral song. The Poet has not said the west wind to be end of the year anyway.

9. (2nd stanza) " vaulted with all thy congregated might of vapours."

Bring out the intention of the poet here.

→ According to the poet PB Shelley cloud gets its power might from the 'congregated might' of the west wind and this power helps it to cause 'black rain and fire and hail to burst'. Through this portion, the poet has made prominent the wild power of the west wind. This is a submission to the power of the west wind.

10. (2nd stanza) What were the effects of the west wind on sky?

→ As described by the poet, the west wind cause the 'commotion' in the deep sky and the clouds are blown away as dead leaves. In this way it also makes the face of the Heaven open and later on it results, rain and fire and hail to burst.

3rd stanza

11. "Thou who didst
crystalline streams."

→ while describing the effect of west wind on sea, the poet has composed these lines in the third stanza of his poem 'Ode to The west wind'. Mediterranean is an ocean, west wind wakes it up from the 'summer dreams'. By the vastness of the ocean, the poet has tried to establish the wide field of impact of the west wind.

12. "So sweet, the sense faints picturing them!"

→ what is so sweet?

→ The after scenario of the impacts of the west wind on sea is very sweet. And it can't be explained exactly even by the romantic poet as such it can't be imagined by an individual. After the west wind is passed, everything becomes very sweet to the sense. The romantic poet finds sweetness even in destruction in these lines.

13. "Thy voice oh, hear!"

→ The romantic poet PB Shelley has very beautifully visualised the scenario of the sea after the westwind is already passed. The water of the ocean gets the power of the west wind and results high waves, but at the end it becomes calm. Here, we also find apostrophe direct address to the west wind.

14. "If I were a dead leaf thou mightest bear."

— explain this personification.

→ This very line brings out the personal despondency of the poet's mind. The reformative zeal and failure to reform caused the poet to wish or desire this way. He actually wanted to be driven as a dead leaf by the wild west wind — the powerful prophetic passion can also be found here.

15. " The impulse of thy strength ---
--- uncontrollable."

→ what does the poet want to say here?

→ Though this portion the poet has expressed his desire to get the strength of the west wind but not the same, a little less, this is just to enjoy the foreness properly accepting the superiority of the west wind. The poet desired so in order to reform the society.

16. " I fall upon ---
~~these weary wanderers~~ --- my
^
sore need."

→ The poets personal despondency has come out in this line. The failure to reform the society and personal pains had caused even him an optimistic poet to compose this pessimistic thought. This is a line that comes out when in the fourth stanza, the poet describes the effect of the west wind on himself in his mind.

17. "Scarce seemed a vision"

— Explain to the point.

→ The poet says here that the dream of a child always accompanies a scarcity, nothing can satisfy it. The poet explains his urge is a dire need and not a childish wish.

18. "Make me thy lyre"

in stanza

— why does the poet wish so.

→ The poet wanted to be played in the hands of the west wind as a lyre. He also wanted his thoughts to be scattered all through the world this way. The poet's submission to the power of the west wind and prophetic passion has been ingrained in this portion.

19. "Sweet though in sadness"

— Do you support the view.

→ We get sweetness in something in which we can impose ourselves. The true reality of life is pain and sufferings. so it is

sadness i.e. pain and suffering in which we get sweetness. Fun causes laugh, not sweetness.

20. "O wind if winter comes --- far behind."

→ Through this rhetoric question, the most revolutionary optimistic line ever composed in English literature. poet's prophetic passion can be found. winter is a season of death and spring of new birth. Destruction and perseverance, sufferings and happiness, pain and relief all goes together, one after another, as it happens same in nature - Spring comes after winter.

21. (stanza iv)

"A heavy weight of hours has chained
----- Swift and proud."

- Explain.

→ Here in this portion we remember Prometheus who stole fire from the

Heaven, and was proud enough on himself to demand to God same honour as the latter gets from the human beings. It caused him to be chained for ever after. The poet wanted to reform the society and was a sure failure. His failure, his experience, turn him to be that much emotional to compare his sufferings with that of the Prometheus. Now he finds himself powerless, weak, and no more proud of his capability.

22.
5th stanza

"Scatter, as from an unextinguished..."

→ The poet here compares himself with an unextinguished hearth for found obstruction enough on his way to reform the society, from which he was outcasted. Now he wants again to scatter his thoughts, ideas, in the same way as the sparks comes out even decaying the presence of the ashes.