

ENGLISH

CHAPTER 4: THE LAKE ISLE OF INNISFREE



THE LAKE ISLE OF INNISFREE

~Summary~

-by WB Yeats

Stanza- 1

I will arise and go now,
and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there,
of clay and wattles made:
Nine bean-rows will I have there,
a hive for the honeybee,

Explanation: The poem starts with the poet saying that he will wake up and go to the island of Innisfree. He compares his life in the city to sleep. When he wakes up and becomes conscious, he will be transported away from the sedentary non-active city life to a life of activity in a rural area. In particular, the poet mentions two activities that he would like to engage in-physical labour i.e. building a cabin and planting nine rows of beans and beekeeping. He wishes to live alone where buzzing sound of the bees will fill the entire environment.

Stanza- 2

And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;
There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,
And evenings full of the linnet's wings.

Explanation: In this stanza, the poet says that his life on the island of Innisfree will be peaceful. He especially connects peacefulness with the early morning. Peace will come to him readily as morning comes, and he wakes up to the sound of crickets chirping. He

compares the morning to a woman who is veiled. This means that, when the Sun rises, morning drops her veil of darkness and brings peace upon the rural setting of Innisfree. The poet also likes midnight, with the stars shining brightly in the sky. He also likes noon, as well as evening, which is full of the sound of the linnet birds' melodious song.

Stanza- 3

I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear the lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep heart's core.

Explanation: In this stanza, the poet makes a resolution that he will go to Innisfree just now because Innisfree is never out of his mind. Throughout the day and the night, he can only hear one sound in his mind that of the water reaching the shore of the island of Innisfree at a calm pace and creating a soft lapping sound. He hears this sound deep within his own heart as he goes about his life in the urban setting of roadways and pavements. This urban setting contains none of the colours that make Innisfree beautiful; instead it appears grey and boring.

Conclusion of the Lake Isle of Innisfree

In this poem, the poet wants to go to Innisfree where he can live freely in his cabin. However, the present situation of the poet is just the opposite of what he wants. Overall, in the poem, the poet wants peace which according to him, can only find it near the lake of Innisfree.

NCERT SOLUTIONS

Questions (Page No. 42)

(Thinking about the Poem)

I. Question 1. What kind of place is Innisfree? Think about:

- i. the three things the poet wants to do when he goes back there (stanza I);
- ii. what he hears and sees there and its effect on him (stanza II);
- iii. what he hears in his “heart’s core” even when he is far away from Innisfree (stanza III).

Answer: Innisfree is a beautiful place where poet has spent a lot of time as a boy.

- i. The three things the poet wants to do when he goes back to Innisfree are:
 - he wants to build a small cabin of clay and wattles.
 - he wants to have nine bean-rows there
 - he wants to have a hive for the honeybee
- ii. He hears the cricket sing and sees the midnight glimmer with beauty. He sees the sky glowing purple at noon. He watches the evenings full of the linnet’s wings.

All of these have a positive effect on him and he feels very peaceful.

- iii. He hears the lake water lapping by the shore at low sounds in his “heart’s core” even when he is far away from Innisfree.

Question 2. By now you may have concluded that Innisfree is a simple, natural place, full of beauty and peace. How does the poet contrast it with where he now stands? (Read stanza III.)

Answer: The poet contrasts the natural beauty of Innisfree with the roadways and grey pavements of the city he now lives in. “Grey” pavements show the lack of colours and liveliness of the place.

Question 3. Do you think Innisfree is only a place, or a state of mind? Does the poet actually miss the place of his boyhood days?

Answer: Yes, I think Innisfree is a place in reality. The poet actually misses the place of his boyhood days spent in the natural beauty of Innisfree. He gets reminded of the low sounds of the lake water lapping by the shore.

II. Question 1. Look at the words the poet uses to describe what he sees and hears at Innisfree

- i. bee-loud glade
- ii. evenings full of the linnet's wings
- iii. lake water lapping with low sounds

What pictures do these words create in your mind?

Answer:

- i. bee-loud glade creates a picture of a place in a forest that is filled with the soft buzzing sound of honeybees.
- ii. evenings full of the linnet's wings creates an image of a red-orange sky that is full of linnets. Linnets are beautiful birds that add up to the scenic beauty of a place when they flutter their wings and fly.
- iii. lake water lapping with low sounds lets us take a dive into the peaceful scenario where the water of the lake is flowing and producing soothing sound.

Question 2. Look at these words;

... peace comes dropping slow

Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings

What do these words mean to you? What do you think "comes dropping slow...from the veils of the morning"? What does "to where the cricket sings" mean?

Answer: These words mean that one can attain peace slowly and gradually.

Peace is what comes dropping slow from the veils of the morning.

The poet says that peace and serenity spread gradually from the rising morning sky to the ground where the cricket sings.