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CHAPTER

The Fountain

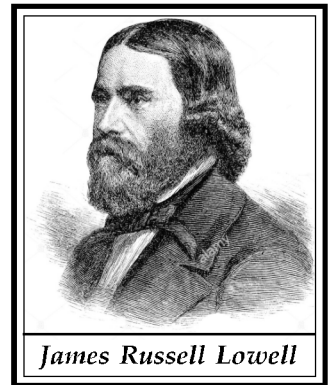
—James Russell Lowell (1819-1891)

◆ *About the Poet*

James Russell Lowell (1819-1891) was a famous writer in the world. He wrote 'A Year of Life' and 'Poems'. His early Poetry is full of nature and emotions. But other poems are full of patriotism and love for democracy. He is more known as a suggestive literary critic and as a lecturer on English poetry.

◆ *Central Idea of the Poem*

'The Fountain' is a very inspiring poem. The poet describes the fountain in three different aspects. In the sunshine it is bright and upward leaping and glittering. In the moon light it appears snowy white and sways rhythmically like flowers when the wind rushes. Under the starlight it rises and falls like spray. All the time it is cheerful and lively. All the time it seems to be aspiring higher and higher. The poet wishes to learn these qualities of freshness, change fitness, constancy and aspiring from the fountain.



James Russell Lowell

Into the sunshine,
Full of the light,
Leaping and flashing
From morn till night!

Into the starlight,
Rushing in spray,
Happy at midnight,
Happy by day!

Into the moonlight,
Whiter than snow.
Waving so flower-like,
When the winds blow!

Ever in motion,
Blithesome and cheery,
Still climbing heavenward,
Never a weary;

Glad of all weathers,
Still seeming best,
Upward or downward
Motion thy rest;

Full of a nature
Nothing can tame,
Changed every moment,
Ever the same

Ceaseless aspiring,
Ceaseless content,
Darkness or sunshine,
Thy element;

Glorious fountain!
Let my heart be
Fresh, changeful, constant,
Upward like thee!

|| Glossary ||

Fountain	फव्वारा	artificial jet of water, spring
Sunshine	धूप	light of the sun
Leaping	उछलते हुए	going up into the air
Flashing	चमकते हुए	shining
Moonlight	चाँद का प्रकाश	light of the moon
Starlight	तारों की रोशनी	light of the stars
Spray	फुहारें	water sent through the air in tiny drops
Motion	गति	manner of moving, energetic
Blithesome	प्रसन्न	(a poetic word) happy gay
Cheery	प्रफुल्लित, आनन्दित	cheerful
A weary	थका हुआ	tired
Nature	प्राकृतिक शक्ति	natural energy
Tame	पालतू बनाना	sensory to continuous source of energy
Ceaseless	लगातार	continuous
Aspiring	ऊपर ही उठते जाना	moving upward
Element	मौलिक तत्त्व	principal substance
Glorious	शानदार	magnificent
Constant	स्थिर	fixed, unchanging

|| Exercise ||

↳ STANZAS FOR COMPREHENSION

Read the following stanzas given below and answer the questions that follow each—

1. Into the moonlight.....blow!

(i) Write the title of this poem from which the above noted lines of poetry have been taken.

Or Give the title of the poem from which the above noted lines have been selected.

(ii) Point out the rhyming words in the stanza.

(iii) What kind of movement does the word, "Waving" suggest?

(iv) What colour is the fountain in the moonlight?

(v) What happens to the fountain when the winds blow?

2. Ever in motion.....a weary.

(i) Write the title of this poem from which the above noted lines of poetry have been taken. Who is the author of the poem?

(ii) Each of the above four lines describe a particular quality of the fountain. Mention them.

(iii) What is the meaning of the word 'still'?

(iv) Point out the rhyming words in the above noted lines.

3. Full of a nature.....Ever the same.

(i) Name the title of this poem from which the above noted lines of the poetry have been selected.

(ii) Why can nothing 'tame' the fountain?

(iii) How does the fountain remain ever the same?

(iv) Point out the pairs of words which rhyme together in the stanza?

4. Ceaseless aspiring.....thy element.

(i) Write the title of this poem from which the above noted lines of poetry have been taken or selected.

(ii) What are the elements of the fountain?

(iii) What are the rhyming words in the stanza?

(iv) Who is the poet of the poem from which the above lines have been taken.

(v) What lesson does the Poet want to give us, in the above stanza?

5. Glorious fountain.....like thee.

(i) Name the title of this poem from which the above noted lines have been selected?

- (ii) Why has the fountain been addressed as 'Glorious'?
- (iii) What qualities of the fountain does the poet wish to have?
- (iv) Point out the rhyming words in the stanza.
6. **Glad of all Motion thy rest.**
- (i) What is the state of fountain in every weather?
- (ii) What lesson does the Poet want to give us in the above stanza?

↳ COMPREHENSION

Answer the following questions :

1. What does the fountain do from morn till night?
2. How does the fountain look in the moonlight?
3. What happens when the wind blows?
4. The poet describe the fountain under three different kinds of light. Name them in order.
5. What are the qualities of the fountain?
6. Why does the fountain not feel tired?
7. How does the fountain look all the time?
8. What qualities of the fountain does the poet wish to have?
9. What does the word "ceaseless" indicate?
10. Give the Central Idea of the poem 'The Fountain'.

↳ Project Work

- (a) Write an **e-mail** to your over-stressed sister, who is preparing for her class IX Examination, suggesting her to make a plan with her friends to visit a fountain near by to make her mind fresh and pleasant.
- (b) Select some such words from the poem 'The Fountain' which are generally difficult to pronounce. Divide the class into two groups and instruct the each group to pronounce correctly the worlds one by one. For this the teacher may arrange competition and can award marks for every correct pronunciation. The words selected by you or the teacher may be :

Flashing, rushing, blithesome, weary
cheery, aspiring, glorious, etc.