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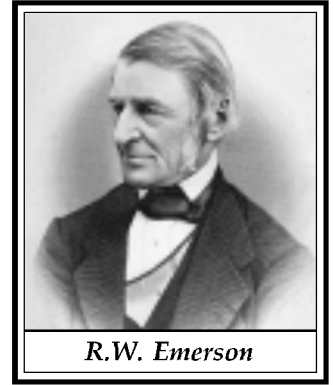
CHAPTER

The Nation Builders

R.W. Emerson (1803-1882)

◆ About the Poet

The full name of Emerson was Ralph Waldo Emerson. He was born in Boston and was educated at Harvard College. He was a highly minded and finely moulded nature. He was a great lover of honest, desire and justice. He went on a long sea voyage due to his ill and weak health. He wrote essays on 'Love', Prudence, Intellect, Heroism and Friendship. He was also a great poet. His poems are short but touching. His famous poems are the Sea Shore, The Snow Storm, Humble Bee etc.



◆ Central Idea of the Poem

The poem 'The Nation Builders' tells us that material wealth does not make a nation strong and great. The people of strong character build a nation. People who are ready to make sacrifices for the truth and honour, who are ready to stand firm and suffer, lay solid foundation of a nation. The industrious and daring people make a nation great, and not the weak and cowards.

Not gold, but only men can make
A people great and strong—
Men who, for truth and honour's sake,
Stand fast and suffer long.
Brave men who work while others sleep,
Who dare while others fly—
They build a nation's pillars deep
And lift them to the sky.

|| Glossary ||

A people

Gold

Dare

Fly

Honour

Pillars

Stand fast

To the sky

राष्ट्र, देश

सम्पत्ति

साहस

भाग जाते हैं

सम्मान

नींव

दृढ़ रहते हैं

बुलन्दी पर

a nation

material wealth

courage

lose hope and run away

respect

foundation

remain firm

great heights

|| Exercise ||

↳ STANZAS FOR COMPREHENSION

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

1. Not gold, but....suffer long.
 - (i) Write the name of the poet who has composed the poem from which the above noted lines have been taken.
 - (ii) What is the meaning of 'A people' in the second line? Why are men more important than gold according to the poet?
 - (iii) What type of men are needed to make a nation great and powerful?
 - (iv) Point out the rhyming words in the above stanza.
2. Brave men who.....to the sky.
 - (i) Write the title of this poem from which the given piece of poetry has been taken.
 - (ii) What are the qualities of brave men given in the stanza?
 - (iii) How can a nation be built strong?
 - (iv) Point out which of the words used in the above noted stanza rhyme together.
 - (v) What do brave men do while others sleep?
 - (vi) Who build a nation's pillars deep?
Or What type of people lay the foundation of a strong nation?

↳ COMPREHENSION

Answer the following questions:

1. What makes a nation great and strong?
2. What type of persons can bring glory to a nation?
3. Why do people suffer long?
4. What do brave men do while others sleep?
5. How can a strong and great nation be built?
6. Who build a nation's pillars deep?
7. Write down the Central Idea of the poem, 'The Nation Builders'.

↳ Project Work

- (a) 'The Nation Builders' is a patriotic poem. It teaches us that the men who stand firm and suffer long make the nation strong and great. Find out the names of any five persons from the Freedom Fighters of India along with their pictures. You may take help from internet, library or any other sources which is easily available to you.
Make an **attractive chart** to present the above mentioned material.
- (b) Collect any other poem like 'The Nation Builders' and make a **diary report** Comparing the both poems on the basis of their ideas, poetic forms and styles.