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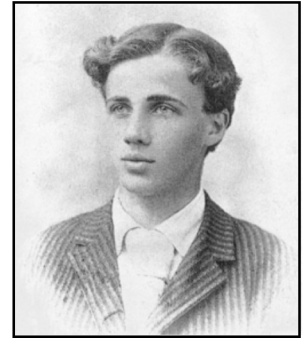
CHAPTER

Stopping By Woods On A Snowy Evening

Robert Frost (1874-1963)

➔ About the Poet

Robert Frost, one of the major poets of America, was born in San Francisco on 26th March, 1874. His father died when he was only eleven years old. His mother was a poetess. His family went to England where he worked in a shoe factory. His mother also joined a small school in a nearby village. Frost married his school fellow Elinor White in 1895. Returning to America, he devoted himself to poetry. He published his first poem, 'My Butterfly' in New York. After that, a booklet entitled, 'Twilight' was published. It had a collection of six poems. In 1912, Frost came again to England and published his first volume of lyric under the title, 'A Boy's Will' in 1913. In 1915, he came back to America where he became a professor of poetry, of Harvard. He was awarded the 'Pulitzer Prize' in America. He died in January, 1963.



Among his well-known poems are 'Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening', 'Birches' and 'Mending Wall'. His volumes of poems are, 'New Hampshire', 'West Running book', 'Mountain Interval', 'Steeple Bush', 'A Witness Tree' and 'North of Boston'.

➔ About the Poem

'Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening' is a simple poem composed by Robert Frost. The poem is about a man who is on his way home. It is a winter evening. It is also snowing and bitterly cold. He is passing by certain woods and is lured by the lovely sight of the snow and the beautiful woods. It attracts the man very much. He is tempted to stay there. But at the same time he remembers that he must have to reach his destination. At last, he prefers life to death in order to keep his promises, duties and responsibilities.



*Whose woods these are I think I know,
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here,
To watch his woods fill up with snow.
My little horse must think it queer,
To stop without a farm house near;
Between the woods and frozen lake,
The darkest evening of the year.
He gives his harness bells a shake,*

*To ask if there is some mistake;
The only other sound's the sweep,
Of easy wind and downy flake.
The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.*

—Robert Frost

➔ Appreciation of the Poem

'Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening' is one of the most inspiring poems of Robert Frost. Pt. Nehru, our First Prime Minister liked it most. The last four lines of the poem were found after his death on his desk in his own handwriting. It is a simple poem about a man who is returning home one winter evening. The woods are so beautiful and charming that he is tempted to stay there. But he knows that he must have to reach his destination. The hidden meaning is that one can not stop while the journey of life is going on. One will stay only when the destination of death arrives.

The poem contains a sweet rhythm. It is musical and high enjoyable. The poem is symbolic.

||Glossary||

Woods	: forest (जंगल)
I think I know	: the poet imagines that he knows the man who is the owner of the woods. (कवि कल्पना करता है जैसे वह जानता हो कि जंगल का मालिक कौन है?)
queer	: strange (विचित्र)
farm house	: a house built on a farm (फार्म में बना हुआ घर)
harness	: leather strapping that keeps the seat well fixed on the horse back (घोड़े की जीन)
sweep	: flow (बहना, सरकना, चक्कर लगाना, परिणाम होना)
downy flake	: soft snow pieces (बर्फ के मुलायम टुकड़े)
deep	: dense (घना)
to keep	: to maintain (बनाए रखना)
sleep	: eternal rest or death (अनन्त आराम अथवा मृत्यु)

||Exercise||

➔ Answer the following questions :

1. Write the central idea of the poem 'Stopping By Woods On A Snowy Evening'.
2. Give a critical appreciation of the poem.

➔ Explain the following lines with reference to the context :

1. The woods are lovely I sleep.
2. He gives downy flake.
3. My little horse of the year.

