

SPRING

Awadh Behari Lall

AWADH BEHARI LALL (b. 1866 - ?) was a student of Patna College and started writing poetry at the age of 17. He wrote descriptive and didactic poetry, epistles and epistolary poems, and elegies. His significant achievement is *Bihar: A Series of Poems (Part I: The Country and the Season)*. This has three cantos: spring, summer and winter. The poem here accentuates the specific identity of Bihar through flora and fauna, seasons and the people. The extract is from the first canto entitled 'Spring'

SPRING

New fresh leaves, green or red, the tress did wear
And pleasant blooms and young fruits did appear,
A pleasing gale, soft murm'ring through the trees,
Laden with fragrance, did my joys increase.

In various spots of ground before my sight
Were flowers blooming, kindling my delight,
They were of diff'rent kinds; with various hues
Were coloured they by Nature's hands profuse,
Which Art with all the majesty of wit

Will never copy them and has not copied yet.
You can im'tate the flow'r, but, artists! Whence,
Say, will you bring the natural fragrance?
In fact did Nature put on liv'ries new

Of various colours – red, white, yellow, blue,
Pink and carnation, amaranth and gold,
Purple and dark – faint, mediocre, or bold.
But chief of all that pleased my smell and sight,
The queen of flow'rs Flora's great favourite,
Was the red rose, emblem of love and of delight.

Her kins and sisters in same bed did stand
To charm the senses – a great lovely band.
The primrose pale, the briar, the eglantine,
Their sim'lar beauties and fragrance did join;
They looked one another with jealous eyes

And rivalled for th' obtaining of the prize
For passing most in the sweetest scent and loveliest dyes...

LET'S THINK AND DO

1. Which flower is Flora's great favourite? What does it symbolise?
2. How does the poet depict the spring? Write in your own words.
3. Pick out the instances of personification in the poem and comment on the significance of their use.

