

Chapter – 5

The Empty Heart

Periasamy Thooran (1908 -87)

About the poet

- Periasamy Thooran (1908 -87) is a Tamil writer.

Main idea

- The poet highlights a great human weakness:
 - man's insatiable greed which ultimately destroys him.

Presentation/ Style

- The poet uses narrative technique:
 - Narrates the story of a greedy man

The story of a greedy man

- There was a rich but greedy man.
- He was not satisfied with what he had.
- There was a tree named 'Kalpaka' having power to grant wishes.
- The man prayed to the tree and asked for a pot of gold.
- The tree granted him seven silver pots full of gold with one extra pot half full of gold coins because the tree knew that the man was greedy.
- The man forgot the seven full pots and tried hard to fill the half filled pot.
- He did not eat, drink and sleep properly.
- He forgot every relation.
- He died before he could fill the half-filled pot.

Conclusion

Empty heart is more harmful than empty purse. There is no end of greed, though there is an end of life. We should be satisfied even if we have very little (half-filled purse).

Question

Now, on the basis of your understanding of this poem try to answer the following questions:

1. Comment on the title of the poem. Is the title justified?
2. What does the name 'Kalpaka' evoke? What light does it throw on the character of the person?
3. Contentment is the style of life. Discuss in the light of the poem.