

Chapter – 7

The Sleeping Porter

Laxmi Prasad Devkota

About the poet

Laxmi Prasad Devkota (1909 – 1959) was a renowned Nepali poet and storywriter of his time.

Main idea

- The poet describes the difficult lives of porter in the hills.
- The poet sketches porter's poor condition as well as his strong will power.

Presentation/Style

The poem presents a vivid picture of a porter. The readers can see before them the porter's strength, his toils and his pitiable condition.

Feature

- The porter is carrying a heavy load on his back and climbs up a cliff balancing himself.
- It is winter and the roads are covered with snow. His work is very hard but he is determined to do it properly,
- He is so thin that his bone can be seen
- On the top of the cliff, there is a hut where he lives.
- He does not get enough to eat.
- The poet calls him a hero and a conqueror.
- Just as a king has power over his kingdom, the porter has power over his sleep.
- At night, he enjoys a good and peaceful sleep like a king.

Conclusion

- The poet admires the hard work of the porter because he fights against and overcomes the problems caused by nature. The porter's determination - not to give up - helps him to complete his work. He shows us the values of determination, contentment and hard work.

Questions

1. Do you think that the porter deserves to be called 'the hero of the mountain'?
2. How do you know that the porter found it difficult to climb the mountain?
3. Determination, hard work and continuity win the race. Do you agree?