

9. ABOU BEN ADHEM

Comprehension (Unsolved Passages)

Passage 1.

- (i) Abou Ben Adhem was a noble, selfless and virtuous person. He always thought of the good of others. He was a peace loving and fearless person as he did no wrong.
- (ii) The narrator wishes that the number of persons like Abou Ben Adhem should increase because he was a noble, selfless and virtuous person. He always thought of the good of others.
- (iii) One night Abou was having a peaceful sleep. He woke up and discovered an angel in the moonlight in his room. The angel looked as beautiful as a lily in bloom. He was writing something in a golden book.
- (iv) The poetic device used is a simile. The poet wants to convey that the angel looked as beautiful as a lily in bloom. It signifies that the angel looked as calm and gentle as a lily in bloom.
- (v) One night Abou discovered an angel in the moonlight in his room. He looked beautiful and calm. Abou asked him what he was writing. The angel looked up and said that he was writing the names of those persons who love God. Abou asked him if his name was in the list. The angel said that it was not. Abou seemed to be a bit shocked but he was not depressed or disappointed.

Passage 2.

- (i) One night Abou discovered an angel in the moonlight in his room. In the presence of the angel in his room he became bold and took courage and asked him what he was writing. He was a noble, selfless and virtuous person. He was a peace loving person. He became bold because he never did any wrong and so was not afraid of the heavenly presence in his room.
- (ii) He wanted to know from the angel what he was writing in his golden book.

- (iii) The angel appeared in Abou's room at night. He was calm and had a soothing look. He was carrying a golden book in his hand. He looked as beautiful as a lily in bloom.
- (iv) He was writing in his book of gold the names of those persons who love God.
- (v) Abou asked the angel what he was writing in his golden book. The angel told him that he was writing the names of those persons who love God. Abou asked him if his name was in his list. The angel said that it was not. Abou was a bit shocked. Since his name was not in that list, he prayed to the angel to include his name among those who love their fellow men.

Passage 3.

- (i) Abou woke up from his sleep. He was surprised to see a beautiful angel in his room. He found him writing something in a golden book.
- (ii) The angel was writing the names of those persons who love God. Abou was curious to know if his name figured among such persons as he felt he loved God.
- (iii) When the angel told Abou that his name was not in the list of those who love God, Abou was not depressed. In a cheerful mood he requested the angel to include him among those who love their fellow human beings.
- (iv) Abou was a bit shocked to know that his name was not in the list of those who love God. He requested the angel to include his name in the list of those who love their fellow men. The next night he was pleased to find his name at the top of the list of those who are blessed by God.
- (v) The theme of the poem is that real and true worship of God is to love mankind created by God. Those who love their fellow men are rewarded with God's love and blessings.

Assignment : Class Activity.