

Poem No.

7

Times

(From Ecclesiastes, 3, 1-12)

To everything there is a season,
 And a time to every purpose under the heaven;
 A time to be born,
 And a time to die;
 A time to plant,
 And a time to pluck up that which is planted....
 A time to break down,
 And a time to build up;
 A time to weep,
 And a time to dance;
 A time to cast away stones,
 And a time to gather stones together;
 A time to embrace,
 And a time to refrain from embracing;
 A time to get,
 And a time to lose;
 A time to keep,
 And a time to cast away;
 A time to rend,
 And a time to sew;
 A time to keep silence,
 And a time to speak.

Theme

It is true that everything happens at an appropriate time. There is time when winter sets in and a time when winter is gone and another season sets in.

Nobody is born before time – nor dies before time. There is a time to sow seeds, and a time when their fruits are ripe to be plucked.

The poet says that nothing in this world happens out of place. Everything is scheduled according to a specific time.

EXERCISES

1. **Explain the message in the first eight lines of the poem in your own words.**
2. **Read the poem and complete the lines.**
 - a) A time to be born
And a time to _____.
 - b) A time to break down
And a time to _____.
 - c) A time to weep
And a time to _____.
 - d) A time to get
And a time to _____.
 - e) A time to keep silence
And a time to _____.
3. **Silence is an antonym of speech. Write down the antonyms of these words.**

i. born _____	ii. heaven _____
iii. live _____	iv. lose _____
v. weep _____	vi. break _____
4. **Write in your own words the critical appreciation of the poem.**