Poem No.

My Neighbour Friend Breathing His Last!

(Bullah Shah)

My neighbour friend breathing his last!
What should I do, O God! Aghast!
He is to leave, now can't remain,
Companions ready to catch the train.

What should I do, O God! Aghast!

On every side decamping talk,

At every place are shrieks in stock

What should I do, O God! Aghast!

Flare up flames in heart to height,

What should I do, O God! Aghast!

Without His love, Bullah in loss,

Can hardly dwell here or across.

What should I do, O God! Aghast!

Translated by A.R. Luther

Glossary

aghast	terrified
decamping	going away (secretly)
shrieks	cries
flare up	burst into bright flame

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Theme

The death of a neighbour friend terrifies the poet and puts him in a state of shock. The deads leave this world and leave behind relatives to mourn for them. Everything charming in the world becomes invisible. The only appreciable thing is the love of Allah without which everyone is at a loss.

EXERCISE

Answer the following questions.

- When does a person remember Allah?
- What is the effect of the death scene?
- 3. Why does a person feel helpless on the death of a friend?
- Without whose love is Bullah at a loss?
- Write down the rhyming words used in the poem.
- The poet arrives at a certain conclusion in the last three lines of the poem. What is it?
 Write in your own words.
- Paraphrase the poem in your own words.