

Poem No.

18

Love – an Essence of All Religions

(Jalaluddin Rumi)

Through love thorns become roses, and
 Through love vinegar becomes sweet wine,
 Through love the stake becomes a throne,
 Through love misfortune becomes good fortune,
 Through love burning fire becomes pleasing light,
 Through love stone becomes soft as butter,
 Through love grief becomes a joy,
 Through love lions become harmless
 Through love sickness becomes health,
 Through love wrath seems to be a mercy,
 Through love the dead rise to life,
 Through love the king becomes a slave.

Translated by Dr. Nicholson

Glossary

vinegar	acid liquor used in flavouring food and for pickling
stake	post (to which a person was tied)
wrath	great anger

Theme

Love is the essence of all religions. It is love that changes the adversities into pleasures. Thorns become roses, vinegar becomes sweet wine, burning fire a pleasing light, sickness becomes health, and the king a slave. Life becomes a success and pleasure because of love, otherwise life is not worth living.

EXERCISES

1. **What is the effect of love?**
2. **Is life worth living without love?**
3. **There are a number of antonyms in this poem. Given below are words taken from the poem. Write down the antonyms as given in the poem.**

Example:

thorns roses

misfortune

stone

grief

sickness

wrath

dead

king

4. **Make pairs of rhyming words from the list of the words given below, e.g. fight, light.**

roses, gone, health, fight, throne, poses, joy, wealth, light, toy, thorn, love, horn, dove