



CLASS X
ADDITIONAL ENGLISH
CHAPTER 6 - INDIAN WEAVERS
SAROJINI NAIDU

NOTES

INTRODUCTION

Sarojini Naidu (Feb 13, 1879 - March 2, 1949) was a child prodigy, a freedom fighter, and a poet. She was the first Indian woman to become the President of Indian National Congress, the first woman to become the governor. She was famously known as '*Bharatiya kokila*' (The Nightingale of India). She was very active in the Indian Independence movement and encouraged women to participate in political life. Some of her well-known poems are 'Coromandel Fishers', 'Palanquin Bearers' etc.

This poem highlights the craft and skill of the Indian weavers. It tells about the three important stages in human's life, namely, birth, marriage (youth) and death. It relates these three stages to different colours and different times of the day.

SUMMARY

The weavers start their weaving in the morning (rise of a day). The poetess compares the cloth with the blue coloured wing of a blue halcyon and asks the weavers why they look so happy while weaving the garment. In response, the weavers answer that they are weaving a dress for the new born baby so they are so happy. It is the first stage of human life which is filled with happiness, freshness, beauty, hope etc. like blue colour.



The weavers continue their work even at fall of the night (evening). She compares the garment with the purple green coloured feathers of a peacock and asks the weavers again why they are weaving so shiny garments. In response, they answer that they are weaving a bridal veils of a queen so it's fresh and bright. It is the second phase of human life - adulthood, a phase of merry days that brightens every aspects of human life. The colours purple and green symbolize the ups and downs of life that makes the adulthood bright.

The weavers carry out their work during the cold moonlight. But their attitude change, they become serious and calm. The garment they weave is white in colour like feather and cloud. She asks the weavers again what they are weaving instead of why they are weaving. In response, they answer that they are weaving shroud for a dead man's funeral. This is the third and final phase of human life, i.e., death which is lifeless and motionless just like a white cloud or feather.

This is a small lyric poem in three stanzas of four lines each. In each stanza, the question is asked in the first two lines, and it is answered in the remaining two lines.

It has the rhyme scheme *aabb*. The poetess uses number of literary devices like simile, metaphor, imagery etc. It provides a symbolic representation from birth to death.

