

Long years ago we made a tryst with destiny, and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially. At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom. A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance. It is fitting that at this solemn moment we take the pledge of dedication to the service of India and her people and to the still larger cause of humanity. At the dawn of history India started on her unending quest, and trackless centuries are filled with her striving and the grandeur of her success and her failures. Through good and ill fortune alike she has never lost sight of that quest or forgotten the ideals which gave her strength. We end today a period of ill fortune and India discovers herself again. The achievement we celebrate today is but a step, an opening of opportunity, to the greater triumphs and achievements that await us. Are we brave enough and wise enough to grasp this opportunity and accept the challenge of the future? Freedom and power bring responsibility. That responsibility rests upon this Assembly, a sovereign body representing the sovereign people of India. Before the birth of freedom we have endured all the pains of labour and our hearts are heavy with the memory of this sorrow. Some of those pains continue even now. Nevertheless, the past is over and it is the future that beckons to us now. That future is not one of ease or resting but of incessant striving so that we may fulfil the pledges we have so often taken and the one we shall take today. The service of India means the service of the millions who suffer. It means the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity. The ambition of the greatest man of our generation has been to wipe every tear from every eye. That may be beyond us, but as long as there are tears and suffering, so long our work will not be over.

Questions

1. Express in your own words: (a) we made a tryst with destiny; **We grappled with fate** (b) at the stroke of the midnight hour; **In the middle of the night** (-,-) when the world sleeps; **When all are a sleep** (d) when we step out from the old to the new; **At the time of change** (e) we take the pledge of dedication; **We avow to work hard** (f) at the dawn of history; **At the beginning of the history** (g) India discovers herself again; **India has reemerged** (h) with the memory of sorrow; **With bad memories**

2. In what does the "Service of India" consists, according to the author?

According to the author, the service of India consists in serving millions of people, who suffered throughout that tough journey of freedom. Besides, it means to end poverty and eradicate diseases. It also refers to give equal opportunities to the citizens of this country.

3. what are the ideals which India has never forgotten?

India has never forgotten the ideals of hard work and persistence in its way to success. It saw many ups and downs, but it was determined. Thus, at the end of the day, it has attained its goal of getting freedom.

4. Mention some of the responsibilities of freedom and power.

Freedom and power bring a few responsibilities. For example, people, who have freedom and responsibilities, serve the humanity. If they do otherwise, then their power and freedom is of no use.

5. This speech is concerned with the living as well as the dead. In what way does Nehru appeal to his listeners? What motive urges Nehru to rouse the India of today to action?

This speech is undoubtedly concerned with the living and the dead. Nehru tells his listeners about the hardships, which millions of people of India has faced to get freedom. He also emphasises his audience to be ready to work hard to make the future better. He is of the opinion that to get freedom does not imply that India has achieved its goal. In fact, it has to achieve many a milestone like this.

6. Quote the line that has a direct reference to Mahatma Gandhi.

This line 'Wipe every tear from every eye' Directly refers to the founder of India Mahatma Gandhi. It means all the people of India must be happy. However, to make this happen, government of this country will have to work hard.