

Q2. Read the following passage and answer the questions given at the end in your own words: (20)

Poetry is the language of imagination and the passions. It relates to whatever gives immediate pleasure or pain to human mind. It comes home to the bosoms and business of men for nothing but what comes home to them in the most general and intelligible shape can be a subject of poetry. Poetry is the universal language which the heart holds with nature and itself. He who has contempt for poetry cannot have much respect for himself or for anything else. Wherever there is a sense of beauty, or power, or harmony, as in the motion of the waves of the sea, in the growth of a flower, there is poetry in its birth. If history is a grave study, poetry may be said to be graver, its materials lie deeper, and are spread wider. History treats, for the most part, cumbersome and unwieldy masses of things, the empty case in which the affairs of the world are packed, under the heads of intrigue or war, in different stated, and from century to century, but there is no thought or feeling that can have entered into the mind of man which he would be eager to communicate to others, or they would listen to with delights that it not a fit subject for poetry. It is not a Branch of authorship; it is "the stuff of which our life is made". The rest is mere oblivion, a dead letter, for all that is worth remembering in life is the poetry of it. Fear is poetry, hope is poetry, love is poetry, and hatred is poetry. Poetry is that fine particle within us that expands, refines, raises our whole being: without poetry "man's life is as poor as beast". In fact, man is a poetical animal. The child is a poet when he first plays hide and seek, or repeats the story of Jack the Giant-Killer; the shepherd-boy is a poet when he first crowns his mistress with a garland of lowers; the countryman when he stops to look at the rainbow; the miser when he hugs his gold; the courtier when he builds his hope upon a smile; the vain ambitious the proud, the choleric man, the hero and the coward, the beggar and the king, all alive in a world of their own making, and the poet does no more than describe what all others think and act. (Hazlitt)

Questions:

1. In what sense is poetry the language of the imagination and the passion?
2. How is poetry the Universal Language of the heart?
3. What is the difference between history and poetry?
4. Explain the phrase: "Man is a poetical animal".
5. What are some of the actions which Hazlitt calls poetry and its doers poet?

ANS¹: Poetry is the language of the imagination and the passion as it depicts the human emotions which are closely related to the one's mental situation. It is such a natural in its shape that any person can get into it and can feel it.

ANS²: It is the universal language of the heart as it is composed of deep thoughts and emotions. It arouses the sense of love, strength and harmony in a person. It exaggerates a person feeling from deep down of his heart.

ANS³: History is a deep thing while the poetry is deeper on their scales. History reveals the events like world affairs, wars etc while poetry articulates the emotions and feelings that builds the connections among the people. History is more about man made stuff, however, poetry depicts love, hatred, hope and fear.

Ans. 4 The phrase 'Man is a poetical animal' means that man somehow modifies his actions via poetry. A person transforms himself whether to grow or fall by the pleasure of poetry. It's a kind of a whole thing for a person without which his life is as poor as a beast.

Ans. 5 Hazlitt calls the actions of a person as a poetry whether it's playing, singing, observing something and the things like that. According to him all people in their own spheres who are entitled for some act are poets.