

## 7. If I was a Tree

### I. Answer the following in a word, a phrase or a sentence each:

1. What does the speaker want to be in the poem, 'If I was a tree'? (C)
2. Who would not ask the caste of the tree before building its nest in 'If I was a tree'? (K)
3. According to the speaker in 'If I Was A Tree', what would not the bird ask before building its nest? (K)
4. What wouldn't feel defiled when sunlight embraces the tree in 'If I was a tree'? (K)
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ would embrace the tree in the poem 'If I was a tree'? (K)
  - a) Cow
  - b) Sunlight
  - c) Bird
6. Whose friendship with the cool breeze would be sweet, in 'If I was a tree'? (K)
7. \_\_\_\_\_ would not turn back taking the speaker for a dog-eater if he was a tree. (K)
  - a) The Mother Earth
  - b) Rain drops
  - c) The sacred cow
8. Who would not flee shouting for a bath in 'If I was a tree'? (K)
9. According to the speaker, when would not The Mother Earth flee shouting for a bath in 'If I was a tree'? (K)
10. How many gods are sheltered inside the body of the cow? (K)
11. Who are sheltered inside the body of the cow? (K)
12. Where are the three hundred thousand gods sheltered in 'If I was a tree'? (K)
13. What would scrape her body on the bark of the tree in 'If I was a tree'? (K)
14. When would the three hundred thousand gods touch the speaker if he was a tree? (K)
15. How does the speaker want to be purified in the poem, 'If I was a tree'? (K)
16. Name any one of the uses of the tree according to the speaker in the poem, 'If I was a Tree'. (K)
17. When is the tree made pure according to the speaker in the poem, 'If I was a tree'? (K)
18. The \_\_\_\_\_ is hacked into pieces of dry wood to burn in the holy fire. ((K)
  - a. mother Earth
  - b. tree
  - c. sacred cow.
19. What becomes a bier for a sinless body in the poem, 'If I was a Tree'? (K)

### II. Answer the following in a paragraph of 80-100 words each:

1. Why does the speaker want to be a tree in the poem 'If I was a tree'? (C)
2. How do the life forces 'sunlight and the cool breeze' enforce nature's idea of equality? (A)

**III. Answer the following in about 200 words:**

1. How does the speaker in the poem, 'If I was a Tree' respond to the issue of caste discrimination?(A)
2. Examine the poem, 'If I was a Tree' as a satire on social discrimination.(C)(A)
3. Analyse the concepts of defilement and purification as illustrated in 'If I was a Tree'?(A)
4. Nature nurtures all living beings, whereas humans fail to accept their own kind. How do you explain this with reference to 'If I was a Tree'?(A)
5. Compare and contrast the treatment of equality in nature to that of discrimination among humans as illustrated in the poem, 'If I was a Tree'.(C)(A)
6. How effectively does the poem present the caste system as one of the burning social problems in Indian society?(A)