

## Transformation

Sri Aurobindo

My breath runs in a subtle rhythmic stream;  
It fills my members with a might divine:  
I have drunk the Infinite like a giant's wine.  
Time is my drama or my pageant dream.  
Now are my illumined cells joy's flaming scheme  
And changed my thrilled and branching nerves to fine  
Channels of rapture opal and hyaline  
For the influx of the Unknown and the Supreme.

I am no more a vassal of flesh,  
A slave to Nature and her leaden rule;  
I am caught no more in the senses' narrow mesh.  
My soul unhorizoned widens to measureless sight,  
My body is God's happy living tool,  
My spirit a vast sun of deathless light.

### About the poem

This is a typical mystical poem by Sri Aurobindo who speaks in this poem as an illumined soul. It shows how it is very tedious for a body to be changed from its state of flesh and bone into the eternal state of supreme bliss where there is nothing but the joy and rapture of the highest degree. In a very lucid but metaphysical way, the poet presents the process of changing body into the supreme world of unknown rapture.

### Glossary

subtle- very delicate, fine or precise

infinite- Supreme creator, God

pageant-splendid show usually depicting local historical events, any colourful spectacle

illumined- spiritual enlightenment

rapture-a feeling of intense joy

opal- a gemstone

hyaline glassy and translucent in appearance

influx-an arrival or entry of large number of people or things

vassal- a slave

### 1. Choose the correct alternative:

(a) "I have drunk the infinite like a Giant's wine".

What does 'wine' refer to?

(i) spirituality

(ii) world

(iii) life

(iv) death

(b) "I am no more a vassal of the flesh,

A slave to Nature and her leaden rule.”

The poet here denotes-

- (a) He is no longer just a slave of the flesh
- (b) He is no longer just a slave to nature
- (c) He is a man open to endless beauty and blessings that God provides
- (d) All of the above

**2. Answer the following questions in 15-20 words each.**

- (a) Who does 'Infinite' refer to?
- (b) How is 'Time' a drama?
- (c) What does the soul of the poet want to do?
- (d) How is poet's body a living tool?

**4. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each.**

- (a) What does the poet mean by “Subtle rhythmic stream”?
- (b) “For the influx of the unknown and the supreme”.

What does the poet mean by the above line and who is he referring to?

- (c) What does the poet mean by 'my illumined cells joys' flaming scheme'?
- (d) What does the title “Transformation” suggest?

**3. Answer the following questions in 150 words each.**

- (a) Critically analyze the holistic view of the poem.
- (b) Explain the metaphors used in the poem-
  - (i) narrow mesh
  - (ii) vassal
  - (iii) tool
  - (iv) vast sun