



## 23. Where the Mind is without Fear

*What according to you is 'freedom'?*

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;  
 Where knowledge is free;  
 Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by  
                                          narrow domestic walls;  
 Where words come out from the depth of truth;  
 Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection;  
 Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the  
                                          dreary desert sand of dead habit;  
 Where the mind is led forward by Thee into ever-widening  
                                          thought and action...  
 Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.

*-Rabindranath Tagore*

### Word Meanings

|           |                                                      |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------|
| mind      | a person's way of thinking                           |
| fear      | the bad feeling that you have when you are in danger |
| fragments | small pieces                                         |
| narrow    | limited                                              |
| depth     | the strength and power of feeling                    |
| striving  | sincere effort to do something                       |
| dreary    | that makes you feel sad or dull                      |
| aware     | knowing something                                    |

### Reading Comprehension

A. Match the expressions given in column 'B' to 'A':

| 'A'                      | 'B'                                                                            |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| the mind is without fear | we feel proud                                                                  |
| the head is held high    | freedom to express our thinking and ideas                                      |
| knowledge is free        | with own interest                                                              |
| broken up into fragments | a society with all types of creed, caste and religious, but not united         |
| narrow domestic walls    | every one has the right to get the knowledge according to his/her own interest |

tireless striving stretches  
its arms towards perfection

clear stream of reason

dreary desert sand of dead habit

the mind is led forward by Thee  
into ever widening thought and  
action

heaven of freedom

let my country awake

to be truthful, honest and sincere

follow bad customs and traditions

think logically

feeling of freedom

let my country be free

request to God for gifting us broad  
thinking and work accordingly.

## B. Answer the following questions:

1. Make a list of the qualities found in the 'Heaven of Freedom'.
2. Who does the poet address when he says 'My Father'?
3. What type of society does the poet dream about ?
4. Where should the mind be led ?
5. How can people move towards perfection ?
6. What does the poet mean when he says "let my country awake"?
7. What are the factors which are barriers for a good society?
8. In what sense is 'Heaven of Freedom' used ?
9. What type of freedom helps us to make our country heaven ?
10. Make a list of bad customs you find in your society.

## Vocabulary

### A. I. Use the words given in brackets to frame your sentences:

free-freedom, high-height, know-knowledge, deep-depth,  
perfect-perfection, act-action.

### II. Match the columns: (opposite words)

'A'

ever  
high  
fragments  
narrow  
deep  
stretch  
lost  
dreary  
desert  
heaven

'B'

whole  
shallow  
fold  
found  
cheerful  
greenery  
hell  
low  
broad  
never



**B. Use the following phrases in your own sentences:**

broken up, depth of truth, lost its way, dreary desert

**Grammar****A. Pick up the phrases from the box and answer the question as given in the example:**

Where do you want to go in the summer vacation?

**Example:** I would like to go to a place where there is a lot of greenery.

peace, cool water, no riots, waterfall, enough food,  
freedom, dense forest, beautiful gardens, beautiful  
mountains, gentle people, a lot of greenery.

**B. Write the sentences in your note book and underline the part of the sentences beginning with 'Where':****Writing**

Look at the table given below. On the left are given some questions that we often ask ourselves. Write your opinion in the box given on the right hand side:

| Questions that we ask ourselves....                             | When do you feel so ?   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| When is your mind free from fear?                               | -----<br>-----          |
| When do you feel proud of your actions ?                        | -----<br>-----          |
| When would you feel satisfied with the work that you have done? | -----<br>-----<br>----- |

**Activity**

- A. Select two statements that match the belief/action of persons in the story:**  
[See Appendix-1 Lesson-23](#)

| A                           | B                                                     |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Wise Man                 | 1. thought that no one can stop things from happening |
| 2. Intelligent Man          | 2. took action after careful thought                  |
| 3. Man who believed in fate | 3. left the place                                     |
|                             | 4. removed his belongings                             |
|                             | 5. came up with solutions to problems                 |
|                             | 6. continued to stay                                  |

- B. Think of five things you could do to fulfill Rabindranath Tagore's dream for India as given in his poem 'Where the mind is without Fear':**

You could begin your statements with the following expressions.

I am determined to .....

I've decided to .....

I'm going to .....

I intend to .....

I'm planning to .....

**Project**

**Frame some phrases with the help of the given words. An example is given:**

**Example:**

|           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
|           | Clear Stream |
|           | Sky          |
|           | Voice        |
| bright    | _____        |
|           | _____        |
|           | _____        |
| beautiful | _____        |
|           | _____        |

huge \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
little \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Use the following proverb in your sentence. Meaning is given.**

**Proverb**

**Meaning**

The first step is the hardest.

Making a start is the most difficult part of an action.



\_\_\_\_\_