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MY GOOD RIGHT HAND

I **fell** into **grief**, and began to **complain**;
I looked for a friend, but I **sought** him in **vain**;
Companions were shy, and acquaintance were cold ;
They gave me good **counsel**, but **dreaded** their gold. 4

"Let them go," I **exclaimed** : "I've a friend at my side,
To lift me, and aid me, whatever **betide**.
To trust to the world is to build on the sand :
I'll trust but in heaven and my **good Right Hand**" 8

My courage **revived**, in my **fortune's despite** ,
And my hand was as strong as my **spirit** was **light** ;
It raised me from sorrow, it saved me from pain ;
It fed me, and clad me, again and again. 12

The friends who had left me came back every one,
And **darkest** advisers **looked bright** as the Sun ;
I need them no more, as they all understand,
I thank thee, I trust thee, my good Right Hand! 16

C. Mackay

About The Poet :

Charles Mackay (27 march 1814 - 24 December 1889) was a Scottish poet, journalist, author, novelist and song writer. Mackay is mainly remembered for his book *Extraordinary popular Delusions and the madness of Crowds*.

About the Poem :

The poem is related with the common theme of poverty and the way how it can be removed. When the poet fell in grief and some adversity, all his friends and relatives deserted him. No one came to help him. He found only lip sympathy from them. The poet thinks that trusting other people is like building a castle on sand. Therefore he decided to believe in God and the hard work to be done by himself. With this realisation his courage returned in him. He overcame his sorrow and soon became prosperous. His hard work lifted him up from sorrow and pain.

GLOSSARY

fell into (phr v)	:	was overpowered
grief (n)	:	sadness (because of poverty)
complain (v)	:	to express dissatisfaction
sought (v)	:	tried to find
in vain (idiom)	:	without success
companions (n)	:	friends
acquaintance (n)	:	somewhat familiar persons
counsel (n)	:	advice, opinion
dreaded their gold (phr):		were afraid of lending their money
exclaimed (v)	:	said loudly with confidence
lift (v)	:	boost up
to build on the sand	:	to base a building on a weak foundation
good Right Hand (n)	:	my own effort/self-confidence
revived (v)	:	restored, came back
in fortune's despite (phr):		inspite of ill fortune
spirit (n)	:	mood
light (adj.)	:	cheerful
darkest (adj)	:	selfish
looked bright (v)	:	looked cheerful in a hope to get my financial help in their need

ACTIVITY 1 : COMPREHENSION

A. Tick the correct alternative :

1. What is the meaning of word “sought”?
(a) sadness (b) tried to find
(c) advice (d) without success
2. “Let them go” : the word “them” here refers to:
(a) God the Almighty (b) enemies
(c) friends (d) None of above

B. Answer the following questions each in 30-40 words :

1. Why did poet fall in to grief?
2. Why did the poet’s search for a friend prove to be fruitless?
3. Who is the friend that could help and make the poet happy?
4. Why did the poet feel disappointed?
5. What was the result of the poet’s hardwork?

C. Answer the following questions each in 60 words :

1. How did the poet overcome his sadness?
2. Why does the poet not need the friends anymore?
3. What inspirations do we get from the poem?
4. What does the “ Good Right Hand” represent?
5. Which are the two things that the poet puts his trust in? Explain.

ACTIVITY 2 : REFERENCE TO CONTEXT

Explain the following lines with reference to context :

1. My courage revived _____ again and again.
2. The friends who _____ good Right Hand.