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The Song of the Free

- What makes you angry?
- Will you give up trying if you fail?
- What will you do to achieve your goal?



SWAMI VIVEKANAND

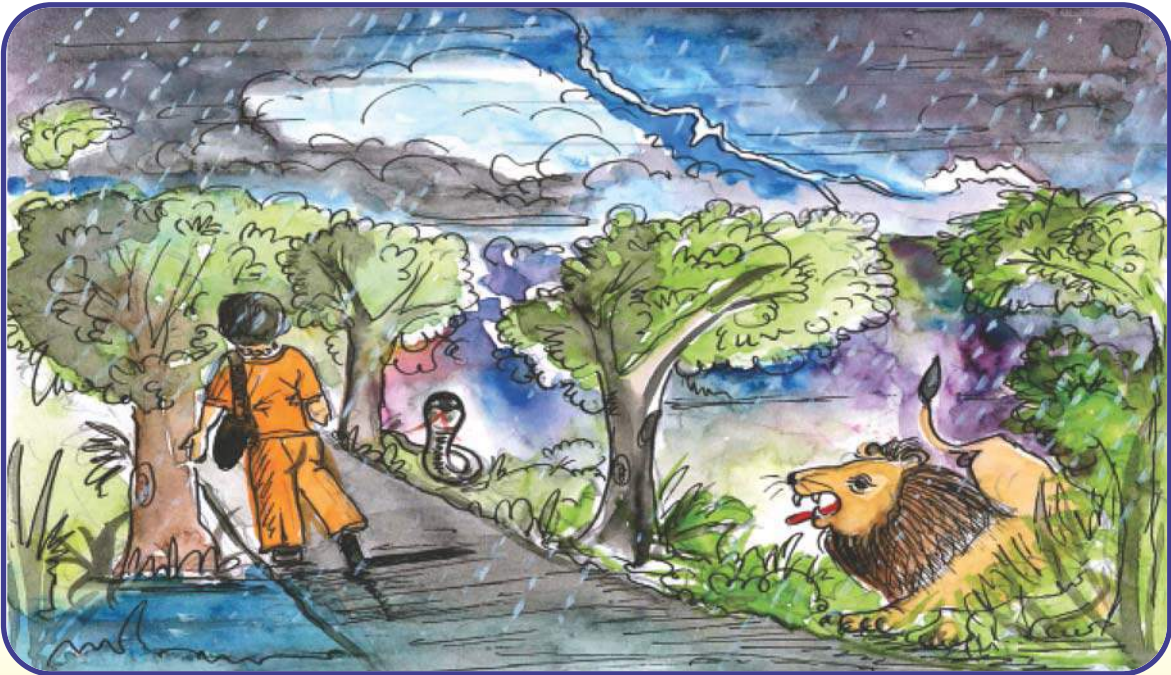
About the poem

The saint poet has great faith in the divine character of human soul. He would not leave his right path shaken by sufferings and failures.

The snake shows its hood only when it is hurt. When the lion is struck by the hunter, its angry roar can be heard in the whole forest. It pours heavily as rain when lightening rends the cloud. When the soul is moved to its deepest core, the great men reveal their best jewels hidden in them.

The wounded snake its hood unfurls,
The flame stirred up doth blaze,
The desert air resounds the calls,
Of heart – struck lion's age.
The cloud puts forth its deluge strength,
When lightning cleaves its breast,
When the soul is stirred to its inmost depth,
Great ones unfold their best!
Let eyes grow dim and heart grow faint,
And friendship fail and love betray,
Let fate its hundred horrors send,
And clotted darkness block the way.
And nature wore an angry frown,
To crush you out—still know my soul,
You are divine, march on and on,
Nor right nor left, but to the goal !

Swami Vivekanand



GLOSSARY:

wounded	:	injured
stirred up	:	made people feel strong emotions
blaze	:	extremely hot, or angry/bright light
cleaves	:	split of cut, or cut something
deluge	:	a sudden heavy fall of rain
clotted darkness	:	complete darkness
divine	:	godly
frown	:	angry look
crush out	:	to press something so hard that it is damaged or injured
betray	:	to cheat, to hurt somebody who trusts you
unfurl	:	spread out
faint	:	weak, dim

Activity - I**A. Tick the correct alternative:**

- I. The lion roars angrily...
- a) by nature
 - b) when it is struck
 - c) when it is hungry
 - d) all of the above

B. Complete the following with the best choice

- I. Let eyes grow dim andgrow faint.
- a) heart
 - b) courage
 - c) manhood
- II. Letits hundred horrors send.
- (a) enemy
 - (b) satan
 - (c) fate

C. Answer the following questions in 10 to 20 words.

- I. What happens when lightning rends the cloud?

- II. When does the lion roar angrily?
- III. When does man reveal his best?
- IV. What is the main goal of human soul?
- V. What is the message of this poem?

D. Answer the following question in about 30 to 40 words.

- I. The poem above is a great source of learning. What do you learn from it?

Activity - II

A. Match the words in column 'A' with their meanings in column 'B'

A	B
flame	aim
strength	power
divine	luck
goal	godly
fate	blaze

B. Complete the following words by filling in the missing letters.

- I. str_ngth II. betr_y III. res_unds IV. cl_aves V. he_rt

Activity - III

The teacher recites the following lines and the students follow.

“The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.”

-Robert Frost

Activity - IV

Collect pictures of some Indian saints and reformers, paste them in your scrap book and write a few lines about each of them.