

# The Last Bargain

---

## Introduction

The poem is about someone looking for a job. However, he wants to be hired without losing his freedom. The poet tells us that he received offers from the rich, the powerful and the beautiful. However, he turned them all down. At last he met an innocent child. He immediately accepted his offer.

## The King's Proposal

The first offer came from a king early in the morning. He had more power than wealth. He offered the man his power in return for the man's labour. The man, however, felt that the king's might was not worth much. So he refused the king's offer.

## The Richman's Proposal

The second offer came in the mid-day when it was really very hot. An old man offered him a lot of gold in return for his labour. The man was not much impressed. The wealth did not attract him. So he refused that offer.

## The Beauty's Proposal

Then it was evening. There was natural beauty all around. There were flowers in the hedge. A beautiful girl came to the man. She gave a pretty smile. She offered to give the man her smiles in return for his labour. However, the man found that her happiness was only sorrow in disguise. So he refused that offer also.

## The Last Proposal

Ultimately, the man came to the seashore. There he found a child playing with shells. The child offered to take his services in return for nothing. The man accepted the offer because while playing with the child he was still a free man.