

## The Sermon at Benaras

इस अध्याय के सभी महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न – उत्तर सहित। पहले खुद हल करने की कोशिश करो, फिर उत्तर मिलाओ।

### अभ्यास प्रश्न-उत्तर (हर टॉपिक से)

- » Poetry – 'Death is Nothing at All', a Message of Comfort
- » Reading Comprehension – The Dalai Lama on Compassion and Society
- » Poetry – 'The Ballad of Father Gilligan', Duty and Grace
- » Vocabulary – Antonyms and Dictionary Synonym Skills
- » Grammar – Reported (Indirect) Speech
- » Listening and Speaking – The Sanchi Stupa and Understanding Grief

### हल किए हुए उदाहरण (step-by-step)

**उदाहरण 1.** Explain the central metaphor used in the poem 'Death is Nothing at All' and how it helps comfort someone who is grieving.

- › Identify the metaphor – death is compared to 'slipping away into the next room'
- › Explain why this comparison is comforting – a 'next room' is close by, temporary-feeling, and not frightening, unlike typical images of death
- › Connect it to the emotional effect – it reduces fear and suggests continuity rather than a complete, frightening end

**उत्तर –** The poem compares death to simply moving into the next room, suggesting the person is still close by and essentially unchanged. This comforts the grieving reader by reducing the fear associated with death and suggesting that the relationship and connection continue beyond physical separation.

**उदाहरण 2.** Why does the Dalai Lama say there is a 'definite correlation' between an individual's intentions and the interests of society?

- › Recall his claim – if society's moral values become negative, each individual suffers
- › This means individual actions/intentions collectively shape society's overall moral climate
- › Since individuals live within that same society, a negative society eventually harms even the individuals who contributed to it

**उत्तर –** Because individual intentions collectively shape society's moral values, and if those values turn negative, every individual – including the ones who caused it – ends up suffering the consequences. Personal intention and social interest are therefore closely linked, not separate.

**उदाहरण 3.** Why did Father Gilligan cry 'my body spake, not I'?

- › Recall the context – Father Gilligan is utterly exhausted from constant care of the dying and cries out in despair about having no rest
- › 'My body spake, not I' suggests he felt his exhausted body cried out involuntarily, not his true devoted self/spirit
- › This shows the tension between his physical human exhaustion and his spiritual dedication to his duty

**उत्तर – Father Gilligan says this because he feels ashamed of his moment of despair – he believes it was his exhausted, weak body that cried out in complaint, not his true devoted spirit, showing the conflict between human physical limits and spiritual commitment.**

**उदाहरण 4. Find four words with a meaning nearest to 'preach' using a dictionary/thesaurus approach.**

- › Think about the core meaning of 'preach' – to give moral or religious instruction, often publicly
- › Search a dictionary/thesaurus mentally for related words with similar meaning
- › Select words that share this idea of instructing/urging others, each with a slightly different shade

**उत्तर – Four words close in meaning to 'preach' are: sermonise, moralise, exhort, urge – each capturing a slightly different flavour of giving moral instruction or persuading others.**

**उदाहरण 5. Convert into reported speech: 'Please don't tell anybody about my illness,' Amita said to me.**

- › Identify the sentence type – a polite request (not a plain statement or question)
- › Choose the appropriate reporting verb for a request – 'asked'
- › Convert the negative imperative 'don't tell' into 'not to tell', and adjust pronouns (my → her)

**उत्तर – Amita asked me not to tell anybody about her illness.**

**उदाहरण 6. Explain how Lord Buddha is depicted at the Sanchi Stupa, and why this symbolic style might have been chosen.**

- › Recall the passage's detail – Buddha is depicted symbolically through thrones, wheels, and footprints, not as a human figure
- › Consider possible reasons – this may reflect a reverence too great to depict directly, or an artistic tradition of the period
- › Connect this symbolic representation to how we sometimes use objects/symbols to represent important, larger-than-life ideas or people

**उत्तर – At Sanchi, Buddha is depicted symbolically through images like thrones, wheels, and footprints rather than as a human figure, likely reflecting deep reverence and an artistic tradition that represented his presence and teachings through meaningful symbols rather than literal portraits.**

### बोर्ड परीक्षा के लिए खास

- When explaining a metaphor's effect, always state both WHAT is being compared and WHY that comparison creates the intended emotional effect.
- When a passage gives a clear cause-effect claim (like 'negative society → individual suffering'), state both the cause and effect explicitly in your answer for full marks.
- For narrative poems, always track the sequence of events (despair → sleep → guilt → urgent ride) before answering interpretation questions – sequence often clarifies meaning.
- When asked to choose the 'most suitable' synonym for a sentence, always consider the CONTEXT and TONE of the sentence, not just the dictionary meaning.
- Always check THREE things when converting to reported speech: pronoun, tense, and reporting verb – missing any one of these costs marks even if the rest is correct.
- For listening-comprehension passages, jot down names, dates, and specific details (like 'toranas', 'Jataka tales') as you listen – such factual details are exactly what follow-up questions test.

**एक नज़र में रिवीज़न**

- › The poem uses the metaphor of 'slipping into the next room' to comfort readers about death, emphasising continuity of relationships over fear of ending.
- › Intelligence must be paired with compassion to be truly useful; individual intentions and society's interests are closely correlated.
- › The poem shows Father Gilligan's human exhaustion alongside a message of compassion (divine or otherwise) that fills human limitation.
- › Antonyms are opposite-meaning words; near-synonyms (like stroll/dawdle/drift/roam) share a base meaning but differ in shade/connotation.
- › Reported speech requires pronoun change, tense shift (usually one step back), and an appropriate reporting verb matching the original sentence's tone.
- › The Sanchi Stupa (Madhya Pradesh, 3rd century BC-12th century AD) depicts Buddha symbolically; grief can arise from many kinds of loss, not just death.