

NCERT Solutions for Class 12
English Kaleidoscope
Chapter - The Wild Swans at the Coole

Understanding the Poem

1. Find out where the river Alph is.

Ans: Alph river is not real, but some people say it's the imagination from the river Alpheus in Greece.

2. Does the poem have a real geographical location? How does the poet mix up the real and the imaginary to give a sense of the surreal?

Ans: Yes, at some points, this poem has real locations, like the Xanadu, which is located in Mongolia. The poet has a very good sense of mixing up the real and imaginary things to make heart-touching poetry. As given in the poem, there is no such type of river named Alph in the world, but the poet mentioned it and tried to give the poem a surrealistic effect.

3. Pick out

i. contrasting images that are juxtaposed throughout the poem.

ii. images that strike the eye and images that strike the ear, both positive and negative.

iii. the words used to describe the movement of water.

Ans: (I). The contrasting images in the poem are as follows: -

- The caves are icy cool, but the domes are very much hot.
- The river Alph is noisy, but the gardens are so calm and peaceful.

(II). In Kubla Khan, some images strike the eyes. They are as: - the description of the garden, dense forest, and icy caves with imaginary touch give the reader a new point of view. Some images that strike the ears are: -

- The line 'if the earth in the fast thick pants were breathing' gives the sense of 'breathing.'

- In the line ' five miles meandering with a mazy motion' provides a motions sound.

(III). Coleridge explains the river's flow by his extraordinary words as he compares the river with the huge fountain. The line ' meander with the mazy motion' describes the meandering motion of the Alph river. In this way, the poet gave an imaginary touch because he wanted readers to imagine the river has a rushing flow and then flows constantly.

4. What is the discordant note heard at the end of the third stanza? Can we relate this to the grandeur and turmoil that are a part of an emperor's life?

Ans: In the third section of this poem, the poet talked about a certain untrue spirit. The emperor of Canada calls upon the whole dynasty. While describing the creature with 'flashing eyes' and 'floating hairs,' he got scared and cried out, 'Beware! Beware!' After this, the speaker feels like he had consumed some 'honey-dew and 'the milk of 'paradise.' This type of happening creates the mysterious turn in the poem. The poem is not over yet; this is incomplete.

5. Which are the lines that refer to magical elements?

Ans: In Coleridge's Kubla Khan, imagination is controlled by the thoughts of the poet. The lines which give a magical element in the poem are as follows:-

- 'where blossomed many an incense-bearing tree.'
 - 'but oh! That deep romantic chasm which slanted
 - 'it was a miracle of rare device, A sunny pleasure-dome with caves of ice'
- These lines create severe touch in the poem.

6. What is poetic ecstasy likened to?

Ans: The poetic ecstasy is the talent of turning a simple incident into a very big and adventure by adding some imagination. Poet's ecstatic energy is a type of energy that gives the power to combine the mind and body to create something which surprises everyone.

7. The poem is a fragment. What do you think has made it a lasting literary piece?

Ans: The poem is fragrant; the idea behind this poem makes it so long-lasting literary piece. In this poem, Coleridge combines the real world with his imaginary world with contrasting things like icy caves – hot domes. Poet also includes some supernatural power to make it more thriller and interesting. This poem contains a broad and universal viewpoint that is why it is a masterpiece.

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