

Quadrant II – Notes

Programme: Bachelor of Arts

Subject: English

Paper Code: ENC 102

Paper Title: Indian Writing in English

Unit: III

Module Name: H.L.V. Derozio's *Freedom to the Slave*- Part II

Module No: 12

Name of the Presenter: Dr Tanvi Bambolkar

Notes:

In this module, we are going to look at the second part of Henry Louis Vivian Derozio's poem *Freedom to the Slave*. The module aims at doing analysis of Derozio's Poem *Freedom to the Slave*- Part II. At the end of this module, you will be able to, analyze the second part of the poem *Freedom to the Slave* by H.L.V. Derozio.

So, in this part the poet apostrophizes the idea of freedom and praises its glory. Praises the concept of freedom by expressing that the name of freedom itself makes the heart happy. In this part of the poem, poet has used the image of soul being altar and freedom being light. He says that freedom is the light that lights up the heart forever.

In the next few lines, Derozio praises the sacrifices of the patriot who fight for the sake of freedom. In these lines we see the patriotic fervor which is expressed. As mentioned before, Derozio was a nationalist and always spoke for the country and these emotions can be seen in this poem as well.

In the last lines of the poem, Derozio glorifies the individuals who try to break the shackles of oppression. Last line of the poem has the titular significance as it says

Blest be the generous hand that breaks
The chain a tyrant gave,
And, feeling for degraded man,
Gives freedom to the slave

These lines bring the readers back to the theme of the poem which is freedom from slavery.

Thus, to summarise one can say that the major themes of the poem *Freedom to the Slave* by H.L.V. Derozio are freedom, patriotism, slavery and sacrifice.

Glossary of terms/words:

- Apostrophise- address an exclamatory passage in a speech or poem to (someone or something).
- Tyrant- a cruel and oppressive ruler.
- Slavery- a condition of having to work very hard without proper remuneration or appreciation.

Possible misconceptions/Clarification:

It is true that Derozio's poem *Freedom to the Slave* has theme of freedom and is symbolised by the motif of a slave, yet there are chances that the poet also spoke about India, as a country which was enslaved by British.

Case Studies and Additional Examples/Illustrations:

To awake patriotism and nationalism in young Indians Derozio sang the glory and grandeur of the golden past of history in his poems which fired patriotic passions in young minds. '*To India-My Native Land*', '*The Harp of India*', '*The Golden Vase*' are patriotic in passion and powerful to ignite patriotism in mind.