

## 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 *Orphan Girl***

**Module No: 13**

**Name of the Presenter: Dr Tanvi Bambolkar**

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### Notes:

In the current module, we will be doing an analysis of the poem *The Orphan Girl* by Henry Vivian Louis Derozio. We will be having a discussion of major themes of the poem *The Orphan Girl*. At the end of the module, you will be able to analyse the poem *The Orphan Girl* by H.L.V. Derozio. We will be also examining the major themes of the poem *The Orphan Girl*.

The poem expresses the plight of an orphan girl. The poet describes the status of living alone without having anybody to look after you. He also throws light on the societal pressures and stigmas which existed in terms of orphans.

In the first lines of the poem *The Orphan Girl* by Derozio, he describes the physical features of the orphan girl. To do this, he uses of imagery from nature like raven, tulip which were often used in Western poetry.

In the next few lines poet explains how the orphan's father died in War. Here, he also glorifies the sacrifice of the War heroes. Later he explains how her mother passed away. He tells that the mother couldn't take the sorrow of being a widow. And this is how the girl became an orphan.

In these lines poet compares orphan's life to cold, bleak Earth symbolising the emptiness in her life. Through these lines he describes the plight of being alone. Poet has made usage of imagery like desert to describe the sad, lonely life of the orphan girl.

Later, poet explains how orphans often face the brunt of societal stigmas. If the orphan girl does something that is against the virtues held by society, she will face more distress and guilt. It is also a fact that orphans don't find anyone to protect them.

Derozio through this poem appeals for kindness towards the orphans. He says that those who help orphans should be blessed and honoured thus giving a strong positive message of kindness and compassion through his poem *The Orphan Girl*.

### **Glossary of terms/words:**

- **Stigma**- A mark of disgrace associated with a particular circumstance, quality, or person.
- **War Hero**- a person who is admired for bravery in war.

### **Possible misconceptions/Clarification:**

It has to be understood that Derozio in the poem *The Orphan Girl* speaks about the hardships faced by orphans. An image of orphan girl is used to represent the general group of meek and exploited. Derozio himself lost his parents at an early age, and probably that is the reason he could express the emotions of loneliness.

### **Case Studies and Additional Examples/Illustrations:**

Derozio was a liberal figure of Bengal Renaissance movement. He was an ardent supporter of liberal thoughts and social justice. Other than patriotism, his poems also reflect social issues as major themes. Just like *The Orphan Girl* his other poems which dealt with social aspects are *The Maniac Widow*, *Song of the Indian Girl*, *The Deserted Girl*.