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Sub :- Eng [B.A Part - III Paper - VI]

Topic :- The Tower (W.B. Yeats)

Expt - What shall I do with this absurdity -
O heart, O troubled heart - this caricature
Decrepit age that has been tied to me
As to dog's tail?

Never had I more
Excited, passionate, fantastical
Imagination, nor an ear and eye
That more expected the impossible -
No, not in boyhood when with rod and fly,
On the humbler worm, I climbed Ben Bulbin's
And had the livelong summer day to spend
It seems that I must bid the Muse go seek
Chase Plato and Plotinus for a friend
Until imagination, ear and eye,
Can be content with argument and deal
In abstract things; or be derided by -
A sort of battered kettle at the heel.

= W.B. Yeats poetic journey is divided into
three parts and the last part which
covers the years from 1919 to 1933, is
the phase of maturity and complexity.
Under this phase one of the most

well-known and matured poem 'The Tower' is written. The poem is dated October 7, 1925, when Yeats was sixty years old and had become blind of one eye and even a little deaf. In 1915, Yeats had bought the Norman Tower, Thoor Ballylee, in Galway and wished to make it a setting for his old age. By this time the themes which dominated his poems were death and old age.

The given lines has been taken from the first section of the poem 'The Tower'. It begins with a tremendous gesture of dissatisfaction with old age that had begun bothering him. It is at once a powerful and disgusting picture of the old man senility and physical weakness. The poet does not know what to do with this absurdity, and compares the old age with some rattling thing tied to a dog's tail. Though the poet is getting physically weak, yet his passions are increasing. He feels stronger and stronger as his decrepit body decays. His eyes and ears, his imagination and passions are as strong as ever, perhaps stronger than even in his youth. Perhaps it is time that he should bid farewell to poetry and took to reading Plato and Plotinus, he must get more and more interested in metaphysics, otherwise he will be insulted and his

name will be dragged in the mire.

Here we find that the poet a conflict is going on in the mind of poet. It is a conflict between acceptance of the natural world and the denial of it involved in an assumption of the mask. Earlier in his poetry, Yeats almost took a flight into fairyland from the real world, it is not a poetry of insight, but longing and complaint. But now the poet feels the necessity of mystical flights. The Tower is a contrast to his earlier phase.