

I Sem BCOM

ENGLISH

The Heart of the Tree

Summary

The Heart of the Tree by the American poet and novelist Henry Cuyler Bunner is a fine piece of poetry with a simple theme and a simpler structure. The poem was originally published in 1912.

In his poem *The Heart of the Tree* he glorifies the act further, shows how a tree helps life on earth and says that it has a direct connection to a nation's growth.

All the three stanzas of the poem *The Heart of the Tree* starts with a refrain with the poet asking what the man actually plants who plants a tree. Then he chooses to reply it by himself and shows what a tree means to the humankind and to the nature, thus proving how great that man is.

The poem opens with the poet asking what does he plant who plants a tree? And sets the tone for the entire poem. We instantly realize that the poet is going to explain the usefulness of planting a tree. However, the poet himself answers by stating that the man plants a friend of sun and sky by planting a tree. A plant grows upwards and aims to reach the sun and the sky. So it is as if the sun and the sky get a new friend in the tree. Secondly, the tree needs sunlight and air to survive and finally, the trees seem to absorb the heat and save the earth from the scorching sun, giving an implication that the sun becomes friendly in the presence of the trees. The speaker now adds that the man plants a flag that flies freely in the mild breeze. The poet here compares the leafy branches of the tree to a flag and the stem to the beautiful shaft(pole) of the flag that stands tall. By planting a tree the man plants a home for the sweet singing birds high in the sky, near heaven. In quiet and happy twilight we can hear those birds chirping which is harmonious to heaven's own tunes.

The poet repeats the question to begin a new stanza and attempts to answer again in the subsequent lines. The tree he plants provides us with cool shade and helps in bringing rain. A tree will produce seed and bud in future. Years will pass silently

but the tree will remain there through its seeds producing new trees. Trees are the main elements the main elements that make plains green and beautiful. So the poet describes trees as the glory of the plain. Moreover, today's single tree may turn into a forest someday. So by planting a tree now the man plants a forest's heritage. The speaker mentions that planting a tree today would bear fruits in the coming days. Our next generation would be delighted to reap its benefits. So all credit goes to the man who plants a tree.

By planting a tree the man shows his love and loyalty for this earth(his home), his sense of civic duty and his blessing on the neighbourhood. All these are reflected in the sap, leaf, wood and in every cell of the tree. By planting a tree the man directly or indirectly contributes to the nation's growth. When a tree is planted, it sets in motion the progress of a nation from sea to sea. All these start from the progressive thought in the man's heart who plants a tree. It speaks about the man's heart, his feelings, dreams and wishes behind planting a tree.