

- Harvest Hymn Summary
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## Harvest Hymn Summary

"Harvest Hymn" is a celebratory poem by Sarojini Naidu that praises the natural forces responsible for a bountiful harvest. The poem is structured as a hymn with different voices—men, women, and all voices together—offering gratitude and praise to various deities symbolizing elements of nature such as the sun (Surya), rain (Varuna), earth (Prithvi), and the universal spirit (Bramha). It reflects the deep connection between humans and nature, emphasizing thankfulness for the prosperity and sustenance provided by the harvest.

### Key Elements

- **Theme:** Gratitude towards nature and divine forces for a successful harvest.
- **Structure:** Divided into sections with men's voices, women's voices, and all voices combined.
- **Setting:** Traditional cultural celebration of harvest.

### Textual Evidence

Examples include lines like "Lord of the lotus, lord of the harvest," and "We bring thee our songs and our garlands for tribute," which show reverence and thanksgiving.

### Practice Set

## Level 1 – Easy

- Who are the voices speaking in the poem?
- What is the main theme of the poem?

## Level 2 – Moderate

- Explain the significance of the references to Surya and Varuna in the poem.
- How does the poem reflect the relationship between humans and nature?

## Level 3 – Challenging

- Analyze how Sarojini Naidu uses imagery and symbolism to convey the importance of the harvest.
- Discuss the cultural significance of the harvest festival as depicted in the poem.

## Answer Key

- The voices are men, women, and all voices together, representing the community.
- The main theme is gratitude and praise for the natural forces that enable a successful harvest.
- Surya (the sun) and Varuna (the rain god) symbolize essential elements for crop growth, highlighting their importance.
- The poem shows humans' dependence on and respect for nature's bounty.
- Imagery of gold fields, garlands, and music creates a vivid picture of celebration and abundance.
- The harvest festival is a time of communal joy, thanksgiving, and cultural expression.

## Quick Reference

- Harvest Hymn = poem praising nature's bounty
- Surya = sun god

- Varuna = rain god
- Prithvi = earth goddess
- Bramha = universal spirit

## Glossary

- **Munificent:** Very generous.
- **Garlands:** Decorative wreaths or chains of flowers.
- **Tribute:** An act, statement, or gift showing respect or gratitude.
- **Furrows:** Long narrow trenches made in the ground for planting seeds.
- **Opulent:** Rich and luxurious.

## Literary Devices in Harvest Hymn

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Sarojini Naidu employs several literary devices in "Harvest Hymn" to enhance the poem's expressive power and to convey the themes effectively.

### Key Devices

- **Personification:** Natural elements like the sun, rain, and earth are personified as lords and queens, giving them human qualities.
- **Repetition:** Phrases like "lord of the harvest" and "we praise thee" are repeated to emphasize reverence.
- **Imagery:** Vivid descriptions such as "gold of our fields" and "mellowing radiance" create sensory experiences.
- **Alliteration:** Use of similar consonant sounds, e.g., "bright and munificent lord of the morn," adds musicality.
- **Symbolism:** Deities represent natural forces essential for agriculture.

### Examples from Text

- "Lord of the lotus, lord of the harvest" (personification and repetition)
- "We bring thee our songs and our garlands for tribute" (imagery and symbolism)

- "O giver of mellowing radiance" (imagery)

## Practice Set

### Level 1 – Easy

- Identify one example of personification in the poem.
- What is repeated in the poem to show respect?

### Level 2 – Moderate

- Explain how imagery is used to describe the harvest.
- Find an example of alliteration in the poem.

### Level 3 – Challenging

- Discuss the role of symbolism in connecting the poem to cultural beliefs.
- Analyze how repetition contributes to the poem's tone.

## Answer Key

- Personification example: "Lord of the lotus, lord of the harvest."
- Repeated phrase: "lord of the harvest" and "we praise thee."
- Imagery describes the harvest as "gold of our fields" showing richness and abundance.
- Alliteration example: "bright and munificent lord of the morn."
- Symbolism links natural forces to divine powers, reflecting cultural reverence.
- Repetition creates a solemn and respectful tone throughout the poem.

## Quick Reference

- Personification = giving human traits to non-human things
- Repetition = repeating words or phrases for effect
- Imagery = descriptive language appealing to senses
- Alliteration = repetition of consonant sounds
- Symbolism = using symbols to represent ideas

## Glossary

- **Personification:** Attributing human characteristics to non-human things.
- **Alliteration:** Repetition of initial consonant sounds in words close to each other.
- **Imagery:** Language that appeals to the senses.
- **Symbolism:** Use of symbols to signify ideas and qualities.

## Cultural Significance of Harvest Hymn

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"Harvest Hymn" reflects the cultural importance of harvest festivals in Indian society. These festivals celebrate the successful gathering of crops, which is vital for survival and prosperity. The poem captures the communal spirit, rituals, and gratitude expressed during such occasions.

## Key Elements

- **Community Participation:** Men, women, and all voices join in praise, showing unity.
- **Traditional Music and Dance:** Instruments like cymbals, flute, drum, and pipe accompany celebrations.
- **Offerings and Tributes:** Garlands, songs, and gifts symbolize respect and thankfulness.
- **Connection to Nature:** Reverence for sun, rain, earth, and universal spirit highlights dependence on natural forces.

## Textual and Visual Evidence

The poem's references to musical instruments and the images of people dancing and offering flowers illustrate the festive atmosphere. The lines "We bring thee our songs and our garlands for tribute" and "We praise thee, O Prithvi, with cymbal and drum" emphasize ritualistic celebration.

## Practice Set

### Level 1 – Easy

- What activities are part of the harvest celebration in the poem?
- Who participates in the harvest festival according to the poem?

### Level 2 – Moderate

- Describe the role of music and dance in the harvest festival.
- Explain how the poem shows respect for nature.

### Level 3 – Challenging

- Analyze the significance of communal harmony as depicted in the poem.
- Discuss how the poem reflects Indian cultural values related to agriculture.

## Answer Key

- Activities include singing, dancing, playing musical instruments, and offering garlands.
- Men, women, and the entire community participate.
- Music and dance create joy and express gratitude during the festival.
- The poem praises natural elements as divine, showing respect and dependence.
- Communal harmony is shown by collective voices praising together, symbolizing unity.
- The poem reflects Indian values of reverence for nature and celebration of agricultural success.

## Quick Reference

- Harvest festival = celebration of crop gathering
- Music and dance = expressions of joy and gratitude
- Community = men, women, and all people together
- Nature worship = respect for sun, rain, earth

## Glossary

- **Tribute:** An act of showing respect or gratitude.
- **Garland:** A wreath or chain of flowers used in celebrations.
- **Munificent:** Very generous or giving.
- **Beneficent:** Doing good or causing good to be done.

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