

Up-Hill

- By Christina Rossetti

Does the road wind up-hill all the way?

Yes, to the very end.

Will the day's journey take the whole long day?

From morn to night, my friend.

But is there for the night a resting-place?

A roof for when the slow dark hours begin.

May not the darkness hide it from my face?

You cannot miss that inn.

Shall I meet other wayfarers at night?

Those who have gone before.

Then must I knock, or call when just in sight?

They will not keep you standing at that door.

Shall I find comfort, travel-sore and weak?

Of labour you shall find the sum.

Will there be beds for me and all who seek?

Yea, beds for all who come.

English Poem

Uphill

Class : 8th

CBSE Board



Christina Georgina
Rossetti

Sweet Ojal

Christina Georgina Rossetti :

(5 December 1830 – 29 December 1894)

Christina Georgina Rossetti was an English poet who wrote romantic, devotional and children's poems, including "Goblin Market" and "Remember". She also wrote the words of two Christmas carols well known in the UK.



Stanza No.01

Does the road wind up-hill all the way?

Yes, to the very end.

Will the day's journey take the whole long day?

From morn to night, my friend.



Stanza No.01 Explanation

The Poem is in a question – answer form. In the Poem, the traveler is confused & nerves about the journey so he/ she ask a series of questions from the guide & the guide answers him patiently. The traveler is questioning to the Guide(God) that whether the road is winding up- hill all the way.



Stanza No.02

But is there for the night a resting-place?
A roof for when the slow dark hours begin.
May not the darkness hide it from my face?
You cannot miss that inn.



Stanza No.02 Explanation

In 2nd Stanza, the traveler ask about **accommodation**. She asks if there is place to rest for the night. She has **fear** of missing her destination. The guide assures that the resting place that referred to as an **'inn'** is impossible to miss.



Stanza No.03

Shall I meet other wayfarers at night?
Those who have gone before.
Then must I knock, or call when just in sight?
They will not keep you standing at that door.



Stanza No.03 Explanation

In this stanza, the traveler asks her fifth question that whether she will meet other travelers at the inn, where she is supposed to take rest. She asks again whether she has to knock or call once she is near the inn. This indicates her underlying fear that whether the door will be locked for her. The guide gave the answer very calmly that the door will be open immediately for her.



Stanza No.04

**Shall I find comfort, travel-sore and weak?
Of labour you shall find the sum.
Will there be beds for me and all who seek?
Yea, beds for all who come.**



Stanza No.04 Explanation

In last stanza, the traveler asks if she would find comfortable bed to rest in the inn because she would be weak from the journey. The guide assured her that there will be many to ease her burden & share her labors & definitely available beds to rest for weary travelers.



Summary:

Over the course of a journey, the narrator asks her guide eight questions about the road ahead. The narrator asks if the roads are all up-hill and if the journey will take all day. The guide replies in the affirmative. Next, the narrator asks if there is a place to rest for the night and if the darkness will obscure said resting-place from their view. The guide assures the narrator that there is an inn and they will not be able to miss it. The narrator's fifth question is about which other travellers will be on the road. At the inn, the narrator asks if the other travellers would prefer for her to knock or call out. The guide tells the narrator that someone will open the door. Lastly, the narrator asks if there will be a bed for her. The guide tells her that there are beds for everyone.

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Questions & Answers

QUESTIONS

Q.1 What does the traveller ask the guide in the first stanza?

Ans: In the first Stanza, the traveller asks the guide whether the road is difficult & up- hill all the way & if the journey would take all day long.

Q.2 What are the poet's views on life and death?

Ans: The poet's views on life and death are that life is like a difficult up- hill road and death is the final resting place where the traveller finds comfort after the difficult journey of life.

Q.3 Explain 'Of labour you shall find the sum.'

Ans: Rossetti asks if there will be rest & finality in heaven after a tiring journey.

Q.4 Read & answer the questions:

“Does the road wind up-hill all the way?

Yes, to the very end.

Will the day's journey take the whole long day?

From morn to night, my friend.”

a) Explain the metaphorical meaning of the first line.

Ans: In the first line, the traveller who metaphorically represents man is questioning God who is the guide, that the road which is life's path is winding up- hill all the way, that means it is filled with difficulties all the way till we reach the end of journey- death

b) How long will the day's journey take?

Ans: The journey will take the whole day from morning till night.

Q.5 Read & answers the questions:

But is there for the night a resting-place?
A roof for when the slow dark hours begin.
May not the darkness hide it from my face?
You cannot miss that inn.

a) What is the significance of the 'inn'? Explain.

Ans: The traveller is told that she 'cannot miss that inn' that stands at the top of the hills and offers rest for those who have spent the entire day climbing. Literally, the fact that it stands out in the darkness of the night indicates that the light that it sheds is powerful and will not be overpowered. Metaphorically the 'inn' represents security. It is a place of welcome and rest at the end of the journey.

b) How would you describe the journey up- hill?

Ans: The journey up hill is very difficult and arduous. There are many areas that are unknown and confusing. The traveller is anxious and wants to know what he would encounter on the way. So, we can say that the journey up hill is a metaphor for the journey of life.

Q.6 Explain: 'You cannot miss that inn.'

Ans: The phrase means that the guide tells the traveller that one cannot miss that inn, at the top of the hill. The hill represents security welcomes all and never turns anyone away.

Q.7 Read and answer the questions:

**“Shall I find comfort, travel-sore and weak?
Of labour you shall find the sum.
Will there be beds for me and all who seek?
Yea, beds for all who come.”**

a) What reply does the guide give to the traveller when he asks if he would get comfort after a tried travel?

Ans: The guide tells that for all the labour that he has done he would definitely get the reward for it.

b) Do you think the traveller will be welcomed to a comfortable place as the journey ends? Why?

Ans: Yes, the traveller will be welcomed to a comfortable place as the journey ends. For the guide tells that in the end there would be beds for all who arrive in the inn.

Q.8 Read & answer the questions:

**A roof for when the slow dark hours begin.
May not the darkness hide it from my face?**

a) Who is the speaker & to whom is she asking the question?

Ans: The traveller or Christina Rossetti is the speaker. She is asking the question to the guide.

b) What does the speaker want to know?

Ans: The speaker wants to know if she will get a resting place for the night.

c) How does the person answer the questions asked in the above extract?

Ans: The guide answers the question by assuring the speaker that she will not be able to miss the inn.

d) What does the poem symbolize?

Ans: The poem symbolizes the journey of the life from birth to death.

Q.9 Read & answer the questions:

“Shall I meet other wayfarers at night?
Those who have gone before.
Then must I knock, or call when just in sight?
They will not keep you standing at that door.”

a) Who do you think the speaker is talking about?

Ans: The speaker is talking about people who had gone before on the same journey.

b) Where do you think they have gone?

Ans: They have reached the inn before the traveller in the poem.

c) Do you think it helps the traveller to know that he/ she is not the only one on a journey?

Ans: Yes, it helps the traveller to know that everybody has to meet their end.

Q.10 What is the main theme of the poem 'Up- Hill'?

Ans: The main theme of the poem is the journey of the life from birth till death. This poem is paralleled with life. Over the course of a journey, the narrator asks her guide eight questions about the road ahead. The narrator asks if the road is all up- hill & if the journey will take all the day which metaphorically means that whether the journey of life will be difficult & strenuous all the way. The guide explains the length of the traveller's journey or life using morning to represent birth & night to represent death.

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Q.11 Why did Rossetti name the poem 'Up -Hill'?

Ans: Rossetti names the poem 'Up- Hill' because the climb up the hill is very difficult like the journey of life from birth to death which also full of hardships. One has to take a lot of efforts to climb a hill to reach the top. Similarly, one has to undertake the journey of the life in which one has to face many problems & finally, reach heaven where one can finally rest after overcoming the struggles of life.

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Q.12 What are the poet's views on life and death?

Ans: Life is like a difficult uphill road and death is the final resting place where the traveller finds comfort after a difficult uphill journey of life.

Q.13 Who are the people taking part in the conversation?

Ans: The traveller who is asking the question and the guide who is answering the questions are taking part in the conversation.

Q.14 'Of labour you shall find the sum.'

Ans: This line suggests that many hands have been at work in building heaven and that countless hands/people will be ready to comfort the weary new arrival. It could also mean that you build your rewards in heaven based on what you do on earth.

Literally, it means that the kind of work you have done on earth will determine how comfortable you will be in heaven. If your actions have been good, you will be suitably rewarded but if you have sinned, you will be punished.

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Thank You....