



4. Peace

I. ERC:

1. "My Soul, there is a country
Afar beyond the stars,
Where stands a winged sentry
All skilful in the wars;"

a) Who is the speaker?

The speaker is the poet Henry Vaughan.

b) Who is the speaker addressing?

The speaker is addressing his soul.

c) What is being referred to as the 'country afar beyond the stars'?

Heaven is being referred to as the 'country afar beyond the stars'.

2. "Leave then thy foolish ranges,
For none can thee secure,
But One, who never changes,
Thy God, thy life, thy cure."

a) Who is being addressed by the speaker in these lines?

The soul is being addressed by the speaker in these lines.

b) What does the poet mean by 'foolish ranges'?

By 'foolish ranges' the poet means the desires of a person's heart.

c) Who can 'secure thee'?

Only God can 'secure thee'.

d) Who never changes?

God never changes.

II. Short Answers:

1. Who is the winged sentry? Where does she/he stand?

The winged sentry is the angel who stands in Heaven, in the country far beyond the stars.

2. Where can peace be found according to the poet?

According to the poet, peace can be found in the country afar beyond the stars.

3. Who is being referred to as the 'One born in a manger'?

God is being referred to as the 'One born in a manger'.

4. Why can the flower of peace not wither in heaven?

The flower of peace cannot wither in heaven because God takes care of it.

5. Which is the only place where one can feel secure? Who can make you feel secure there?

Heaven is the only place where one can feel secure. Only God can make you feel secure there.

6. What is the rhyme scheme of the poem?

The rhyme scheme of the poem is ababcbdcdefefghghijij.

7. All poems have a theme. A theme is defined as a main idea or an underlying meaning of a literary work that may be stated directly or indirectly. A poet may write on any theme, and some common themes are: nature, children, love, war, honesty, humour, and so on.

What is the theme of this poem?

The theme of this poem is peace and where to find it.

8. Personification means the representation of a non-human living thing, inanimate object or idea as human, or attributing to it human traits and qualities.

Find an example of this from the poem.

An example of personification from the poem is the soul of the poet has been personified.

9. How has the poet presented the contrast between heaven and earth? Give a few examples from the poem to support your answer.

The poet has presented a contrast between heaven and earth. He says there is no peace on earth whereas there is an abundance of peace in heaven. He also says how flowers don't wither and die in heaven as God takes care of them in heaven.

10. What message is the poet trying to convey through this poem?

Through this poem the poet is trying to convey that there is heaven beyond the stars where there is peace. The human soul that tries to secure riches on earth does not understand that you can be secure only in heaven as it is only God who never changes and is the cure for all of life's problems.