

# FREEDOM TO THE SLAVE

I ERC

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1. Oh Freedom! there is something dear  
E'en in thy very name,  
That lights the altar of the soul  
With everlasting flame.

a) What does the speaker refer to as 'dear'?

Ans: The speaker refers to as 'dear' is freedom.

b) How does freedom light the 'altar of the soul'?

Ans. Freedom lights the altar of the soul when the man is free, his heart is filled with happiness, and he feels as if it is lighted by the illuminating power of freedom.

c) What does the speaker mean by 'everlasting flame' of freedom?

Ans. 'Everlasting flame' of freedom means that freedom should remain forever like the flame that is constantly burning.

2. Success attend the patriot sword,  
That is unsheathed for thee,  
And glory to the breast that bleeds,  
Bleeds nobly to be free!

a) Why is the 'patriot sword' taken out from its sheath?

Ans. The 'patriot sword' is taken out from its sheath to fight the tyrant for freedom.

b) What does the 'patriot sword' symbolize?

Ans. The patriot sword symbolizes the struggle for freedom.

c) For whom does the speaker wish for glory?

Ans. The speaker wishes for glory for the slave who has always yearned for freedom.

3. Blest be the generous hand that breaks  
The chain a tyrant gave,  
And feeling for degraded man,  
Gives freedom to the slave.

a) Whose 'hands' are referred to in the stanza?

Ans. The hands of the people or heroes who fought for freedom are referred to in the stanza.

b) Who is the 'tyrant' referred to in the stanza?

Ans. The tyrant is the symbol of the cruel people who have enslaved people in their power.

c) Why is the hand described as 'generous'?

Ans. The hand is described as 'generous' because it symbolises compassion, empathy and benevolence.



## II. SHORT ANSWERS:

1. How did the person feel when he was told that he was no longer a slave?

Ans. When the person was told that he was no longer a slave, he felt a profound change in his emotions. His heart started to beat proudly and he experienced a sense of pride and liberation.

2. What made the man's heart beat proudly?

Ans. The man's heart beat proudly when he first realised that he was free. This feeling of pride and joy surged within him, signifying his new found freedom.

3. What does the phrase 'lights the altar of the soul' mean?

Ans. 'Lights the altar of the soul' means that the experience of freedom holds a profound and enduring significance. It ignites a perpetual flame within the innermost depths of one's being, symbolizing its sacred and everlasting nature.

4. Why does the speaker compare the freedom of the slave with the unbound elements of the natural world?

Ans. The speaker compares the freedom of the slave with the unbound elements of the natural world like birds, winds and floods as they represent the uncensored freedom that the man had always wished for. The man senses a kinship with the natural world in his freedom.

5. Who is praised in the last stanza for granting freedom to the slave?

Ans. The last stanza praises the generous hand that breaks the chain given by a tyrant, giving freedom to the slave. It applauds those who show compassion for others and fight for freedom.

### III ANSWER IN DETAIL:

1. The poem brings out the importance of freedom in a person's life. Does freedom mean relief from physical bondage or does it mean liberation of both body and mind?

Ans. Freedom means liberation of both body and mind. The slave has to do a lot of hard work. He is exploited and beaten, and is not given any rest. The man requires liberation of his mind as well as slavery makes him

fearful of the master where he is not allowed to do anything or have ideas of his own choice. Therefore, the poem brings out the importance of both physical and mental liberation.