

# Where the Mind is without Fear

- Rabindranath

Tagore

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;  
Where knowledge is free;  
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments  
by narrow domestic walls;  
Where words come out from the depth of truth;  
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards  
perfection;  
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way  
into the dreary sand of dead habit;  
Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-  
widening thought and action  
Into the heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country  
awake.

# Where the Mind is without Fear

1. Say whether the following statements are True or False:

1. Reason in the poem, is compared to a stream.

True

2. Mind, in the poem, has to express itself in narrow thoughts.

False

3. Mind is influenced by God.

True

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1. Say whether the following statements are True or False:
4. The poet's country is asleep and he wishes it to wake up. True
5. The world desired by the poet is to be divided into small parts. False

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2. Answer the following questions in one complete sentence each:

1. Why does the poet compare reason with stream?

Ans. The poet compares reason with stream because he wants that our rational capacity should be as clear as the water of a stream.

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2. Answer the following questions in one complete sentence each:

2. What are the two qualities of mind presented in the poem?

Ans. The two qualities of mind presented in the poem are

1. It must be influenced by God.

2. Everyone must be broad minded.

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2. Answer the following questions in one complete sentence each:

3. What is meant by the expression 'Knowledge is free'?

Ans. 'Knowledge is free' means in a truly independent India knowledge or the right to education must be open to all irrespective of people's class, caste, gender or any other barrier.

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2. Answer the following questions in one complete sentence each:

4. To whom is the poem addressed?

Ans. The poem is in a prayer form and addressed to God as father. In the poem, the poet prays to God the India should be free from the British Rule and free India should be like heaven on the earth.

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2. Answer the following questions in one complete sentence each:
5. Why does the poet compare 'dead habit' to 'dreary desert sand'?

Ans. In the poem 'dead habit' means our conventional rituals and superstitions which don't have any scientific base. These rituals and superstitions are compared to dreary desert sand because in deserted area there is no life. Hence, no progress possible if we follow these irrational habits.



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5. Keeping the theme of the poem in mind, construct one sentence for each of the words given below:

1. Freedom = Independence

India got freedom in the year 1947.

2. Knowledge = Education

Knowledge must be free for all.

3. Fragments = Small parts

India should not be divided into fragments.

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5. Keeping the theme of the poem in mind, construct one sentence for each of the words given below:

4. Striving = Struggle

Everyone is striving for the perfection.

5. Walls = partitions of bricks, divider

India should not be divided into small fragments by domestic walls.

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## VOCABULARY

Match the words in list 'A' with their antonyms in list 'B'.

**A**

**B**

- |    |            |              |
|----|------------|--------------|
| 1. | High       | Body         |
| 2. | Fear       | Courage      |
| 3. | Knowledge  | Narrow       |
| 4. | Fragments  | Imperfection |
| 5. | Perfection | Bondage      |
| 6. | Wide       | Low          |
| 7. | Freedom    | Ignorance    |
| 8. | Mind       | Whole        |

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## VOCABULARY

Answer

**A            B**

- |    |            |              |
|----|------------|--------------|
| 1. | High       | Low          |
| 2. | Fear       | Courage      |
| 3. | Knowledge  | Ignorance    |
| 4. | Fragments  | Whole        |
| 5. | Perfection | Imperfection |
| 6. | Wide       | Narrow       |
| 7. | Freedom    | Bondage      |
| 8. | Mind       | Body         |