

An Apitaph

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YOUVA

- Walter De La Mare

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Class - XII (L. L. English)
Section - Poetry.
Title - An Apitaph.

"An Apitaph" is a short poem. It has been written by Walter De La Mare. Mare is well known poet, novelist and short-story writer of 20th century. He wrote his poems basically on children and nature. In this poem, the poet expresses his sad feeling for the lady whom he loved very much.

In the present poem, the poet has described about a beautiful lady. He weeps bitterly at the grave of lady where she is lying. She was the most beautiful lady that was ever born in the West Country.

But beauty vanishes; beauty passes;
However rare - rare it be;

According to him, beauty is not permanent because it vanishes or passes but such beautiful lady is rare in the West Country. Physical beauty is transient. It never lasts forever. The real beauty is the inner beauty. It never passes nor does it fade. It always brings joy in for us. When we depart from this world we leave out footprints on the sands of time. In the real sense a man is not remembered for his beauty or outward look. People remember him for his deeds. Life is short-lived. It is like a bubble on the sea water. So we must not judge anyone for his outer beauty but we must look for the inner qualities.

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And when I crumble, who will remember
This lady of the West country?

Really he remembers her and weeps there. He says that she should leave him because he loved her very much. The poet had much love for her so he could not bear the sense of separation. And he also says that nobody will remember her after his death.

In short, the poet makes us aware of the inhuman condition. This ironical poem also shows that outer beauty does not remain forever but good deeds done by human remain forever and that human is remembered by everyone. Really it is a beautiful poem.