

Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments Previous Year Questions (with model answers)

Q1. In the poems 'Ozymandias' by Percy Bysshe Shelley and 'Not Marble, Nor the Gilded Monuments' by William Shakespeare, the concept of Time is explored, but each poet treats it in a distinct manner. Elucidate. [CBSE 2024]

Ans. In both these poems, time is an important component. In the poem Ozymandias, we see that the passage of time has destroyed the statue of king Ozymandias which is a ruin now. The shattered pieces of the statue lie scattered in the vast desert. In the poem Not Marble nor the Gilded Monuments, the poet refers to time as being 'sluttish', someone with bad qualities because time converts the statues and monuments into ruins. By calling it 'sluttish' he also personifies time and gives a lot of emphasis on the power of time.

We see that both the poets are referring to the destructive nature of time. However, PB Shelley has laid more emphasis on the irony which is there in the words inscribed on the pedestal and the actual condition of the great colossal work which is destroyed with the passage of time. While Shakespeare talks of time having an immoral character which destroys great monuments and statues made by great men. He immortalises his poetry written in praise of the brave men which will outlive the great structures. He says that the poetry will not be affected by time and through it, the praise of the poet's beloved will remain forever.

Q2. What will Shakespeare's friend realize when he rises on the Day of Judgment? [CBSE 2018]

Ans. On the day of judgment Shakespeare's friend will realize that the poet's statement was true because that day, after several years will have passed, he will still remain alive in the memory of the readers, while the monuments erected by the powerful rulers will have gotten destroyed by the ravages of time.

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