

Date: 4/4/2020

Dr Umesh Prasad Singh

Assistant Prof English

Contact No 7250460920

Drumeshsingh131@gmail.com

B.A.Part-1 Subsidiary English

S. No 4

Topic: Summary of the poem Philomela

The present poem is an address to Philomela. When the poet hears the songs of the nightingale he feels that it is charged with the profound melancholy. The sad notes of the nightingale remind him of Philomela's suffering which has been narrated in the classical legend. He feels that the nightingale is still nourishing her agony in her brain. Though she had been tortured in her human form in ancient Greece, she has not forgotten her suffering yet. The poet asks the nightingale if she never be will able to overcome her grief. He is surprised to find that even her pleasant surroundings do not provide consolation to her eternal pain. He asks the nightingale if the fragrant lawn, the cool night, the calm Thames, the beautiful moonshine and dew cannot make her forget the agony of her past life. The melancholy notes of the nightingale indicate that even her pleasant surrounding could not lessen her grief.

The poet asks the nightingale if she visualizes the palace in the forest of Thrace, where she had to suffer. He feels that she can still visualize her dumb sister's agony. He refers to the classical legend of Philomela and indicates that the nightingale cannot forget her sister's suffering in the ancient time. He is reminded of the flight of Philomela and her transformation into the nightingale in ancient Greece. He asks the nightingale if she can still visualize her flight and transformation into the nightingale. He feels that the sad notes of the nightingale express her eternal grief.