2.2 Indian Weavers

**Title:**

The title ‘Indian Weavers’ focuses over Indian artisans particularly weavers. The adjective ‘Indian’ is used with a definite purpose appreciating the work of Indian Weavers. As the weavers intertwine the fabrics, the poetess aims to interlace a message through the poem.

**New words:**

1) Weaving – interlacing threads to produce fabrics or cloth
2) Break of day – morning, dawn, sunrise
3) Halcyon – Asian/African kingfisher bird
4) Wild – untamed, free
5) Robe – dress, clothe, frock, dressing gown, housecoat
6) Plumes – feathers of bird, quills
7) Marriage-veils – bridal veils, wedding veils (Hindi – Chunari), bridal gown, specially to cover face
8) Solemn – serious, sober
9) Still – rest, stable, silent
10) Chill – extreme cool
11) Funeral – burial, cremation, last rites
12) Shroud – white cloth for dead body
13) Fall of night – late evening
14) Bright garments - brightly (shining) colored garments
15) Solemn and still- sacred, serious, quiet
16) Moonlight chill- cold dead night
17) Gay - with happiness or with fun

**Paraphrase:**

The weavers start their weaving at the morning (rise of a day). The poetess compares the cloth with the blue coloured wing of a wild halcyon and asks the weavers why they look so happy while weaving the garment/cloth. In response, the weavers answer that they are weaving a dress for the new born baby so they are so happy. Here, break of day is metaphorical used for the birth and the first phase of human life which is a happy moment for everyone including the weavers.
The weavers continue their work during fall of night (evening). The poetess compares the garment/cloth with the purple green coloured feathers of a peacock and asks again the weavers why they are weaving so shiny garment/cloth. In response, the weavers answer that they are weaving a bridal veils of a queen so it’s fresh and bright. Here, fall of night is metaphorical used for the adulthood and the most important second phase of human life. It is a phase of merry days that brightens every aspects of human life.

The weavers carry out their work during the cold moonlight also. But their mood is serous and silent. The garment they are weaving is white. The poetess very ingeniously compares the white garment/cloth metaphorically with a quill and a also with a white cloud. The poetess asks again the weavers why they are weaving the white garment/cloth. In response, the weavers answer solemnly that they are weaving that white cloth for a dead body for its final rites (cremation). Here, the phrase ‘cold moonlight’ is metaphorical used to the final phase of human life i.e. death which is eternal truth.

The poetess has used two metaphors in the last stanza to compare the white cloth. Within that the metaphoric use of the phrase ‘white as a cloud’ needs deeper interpretation as if the white cloud (cloth) finally shrouds every dead and takes away it to its ‘Final Destination’ or ‘Final Rest’. The last two lines create the feelings of pathos in minds of the readers, the poetess and the weavers.

**Figures of Speech and Explanation:**

1. **Weavers, weaving at break of day.**
   - Alliteration – The sound of letter ‘w’ is repeated.
   - Climax – The words are arranged in the ascending order.
   - Metaphor - The birth (childhood stage of man) is implicitly compared with a break of day.

2. **Why do you weave a garment so gay? . . .**
   - Alliteration – The sound of letters ‘w’ and ‘g’ are repeated.
   - Interrogation – A question is used for emphasis.

3. **Blue as the wing of a halcyon wild.**
   - Inversion – The words are not in correct order. The correct word order is – The wing of a halcyon wild (is) blue.
   - Alliteration – The sound of letter ‘w’ is repeated.
   - Simile – The blue coloured cloth is directly compared with a wing of wild halcyon.

4. **We weave the robes of a new-born child.**
   - Alliteration – The sound of letter ‘w’ is repeated.

5. **Weavers, weaving at fall of night.**
   - Alliteration – The sound of letter ‘w’ is repeated.
   - Climax – The words are arranged in the ascending order.
   - Metaphor - Adulthood (young - the second stage of man) is implicitly compared with the fall of night.

6. **Why do you weave a garment so bright?**
   - Alliteration – The sound of letter ‘w’ is repeated.
   - Interrogation – The question mark is used.

7. **Like the plumes of a peacock, purple and green.**
   - Simile – The garment is directly compared with purple & green coloured plumes of peacock.
   - Anti-climax – The words purple and green are arranged in descending order.
   - Alliteration – The sound of letter ‘p’ is repeated.

8. **We weave the marriage-veils of a queen.**
   - Alliteration – The sound of letter ‘w’ is repeated.

9. **Weavers, weaving solemn and still.**
   - Alliteration – The sounds of letters ‘w’ and ‘s’ are repeated.
   - Climax – The words ‘weavers’ and ‘weaving’ are arranged in the ascending order.
   - Paradox – The line is meaningless / absurd as one cannot carry the work of weaving being still.
10. What do you weave in the moonlight chill?
Interrogation – A question is used for emphasis.
Inversion – The words are not in correct order. The correct word order is – What do you weave in the chill moonlight?
Alliteration – The sound of letter ‘w’ is repeated.
Metaphor – Death (old age - the third and last stage of man’s life) is implicitly compared with moonlight.

11. White as a feather and white as a cloud.
Repetition – The words ‘white’ and ‘as’ are repeated.
Simile – The garment is directly compared with a feather and a cloud.

12. We weave a dead man’s funeral shroud.
Alliteration – The sound of letter ‘w’ is repeated.

13) White as a feather and as a cloud,
We weave a dead man’s funeral shroud.
Simile – funeral shroud is directly compared with a feather and a cloud.

Theme
The poem ‘Indian Weavers’ highlights the craft and skill of Indian weavers. The poetess has very nicely presented three phases of life. The life cycle is befittingly depicted from the work of weavers.

Summary of the INDIAN WEavers

Sarojini Naidu’s poem ‘Indian Weavers’ highlights the craft and skill of the Indian weavers. The poem tells about the three important stages in a human’s life, namely - birth, marriage and death. The poetess relates these three stages to different colors and different times of the day.

The poem describes the different stages of Human life, i.e. Birth, Marriage and Death. In another way it tells about the life-cycle of a human being means Childhood, Youth, and Old age. The poetess asks three questions to Weavers and their answers are relates to life.

The poetess says that Weavers started their work in early morning and they make bright garments in blue colour as the wings of the Kingfisher. When the poetess ask the question, Weavers tell that they weaving the garment of a new born Child. It relates to the childhood of a person. The childhood is more attractive like blue colour.

The night time the Weavers weaving attractive garments in purple and green colour like the plumes of a peacock. When the poetess asks the question, they tell that it’s a marriage veil of a Queen. This suggests the youth of a human being. Youth is the golden time of a life, energetic, enjoyable and attractive. So that’s why here used the expression ‘The plumes of a peacock, purple and green’.

In the moonlight night the Weaver’s attitudes changed, they become serious and calm. The garment is white colour like feather and cloud. They are weaving the cloths of a Dead man’s funeral shroud. It clearly indicates the old age of a person. The white colour feather and cloud are
carrying to the statement that the end of life, feather had come out from the wing now it has no use and the cloud is moving, after few minutes we can’t see the cloud in the actual place.

Poetic Appreciation

1 About the poem poet and title
2 the theme
3 poetic style
4 the language and poetic devices
5 special features
6 message values morals
7 your opinion about the poem

The title of the poem is Indian weavers which is describing and discussing how Indian weavers are weaving variety of clothes suitable for different incidents or occasions.

It is a narrative poem written in form of questions and answers. The poem talks about the contribution of Indian weavers by weaving different clothes. It represents the true soul of India. it shows Indian tradition and culture particularly importance of the colours during the journey of life and its stages.

Sarojini Naidu rightly called the nightingale of India because her poetry is always marked with true soul of India. The specialities of Sarojini Naidu's writing are clarity of thoughts, philosophy of life and reflection of humanitarian nature.

The poetess highlights the craft and skill of weavers. She speaks about the three important stages in man’s life birth marriage and death and relates them to different colours and different times of the day.

The poetess has used very simple sweet and rhythmical language. The rhyme scheme of the poem is ab ab. Alliteration, repetition, simile and metaphor are the figures of speech used by the poetess but no doubt metaphor is most dominantly used.

The special features of the poem are rhythm, philosophy, symbolism and imagery. This poem has been used as imagery to describe the three stages of human life from birth to death just as weavers weave from dawn to night.

The poem gives the true picture of Indian traditions. we get clear understanding of real sense of India. The poem is highly rhythmical. The words are simple but musical. I like this poem specially for its picturesque qualities.