



"Hymn to Adversity"

- Daughter of Jove, relentless power,  
Thou tamer of the human breast,  
Whose iron scourge and torturing hour,  
The bad affright, afflict the best!
- (5) Bound in thy adamantine chain  
The proud are taught to taste of pain,  
And purple tyrants vainly groan  
With pangs unfelt before, unpitied and alone.
- When first thy Sire to send on earth  
Virtue, his darling child, designed,  
To thee he gave a heavenly birth,  
And bade to form her infant mind.  
Stern rugged nurse! thy rigid lore  
With patience many a year she bore:
- (15) What sorrow was, thou bad'st her know,  
And from her own she learned to melt at others' woe.
- Scared at thy frown terrific, fly  
Self-pleasing Folly's idle brood,  
Wild Laughter, Noise, and thoughtless Joy,
- (20) And leave us leisure to be good.  
Light they disperse, and with them go  
The summer friend, the flattering foe;  
By vain Prosperity received,  
To her they vow their truth and are again believed.
- (25) Wisdom in sable garb arrayed,  
Immersed in rapturous thought profound,  
And Melancholy, silent maid  
With leaden eye that loves the ground,  
Still on thy solemn steps attend:
- (30) Warm Charity, the general friend,  
With Justice to herself severe,  
And Pity, dropping soft the sadly-pleasing tear.  
Oh, gently on thy suppliant's head,  
Dread goddess, lay thy chastening hand!
- (35) Not in thy Gorgon terrors clad,  
Nor circled with the vengeful band  
(As by the impious thou art seen)  
With screaming Horror's funeral cry,
- (40) Despair and fell Disease and ghastly poverty.

- Thy form benign, oh Goddess, wear,  
Thy milder influence impart,  
Thy philosophic train be there  
To soften, not to wound my heart.
- (45) The generous spark extinct revive,  
Teach me to love and to forgive,  
Exact my own defects to scan,  
What others are, to feel, and know myself a man.
- The imagery in the first stanza most clearly suggests which of the following?
    - Jealous vengeance
    - Beneficent wisdom
    - Powerful Domination
    - Bitter grief
    - Mindless violence
  - In the second stanza, Adversity is likened to a
    - healer
    - teacher
    - judge
    - warrior
    - tormenter
  - The "Stern rugged nurse" (line 13) imparts which of the following to Virtue?
    - The knowledge of evil
    - The mistrust of fortune
    - The art of self-discipline
    - The strength to overcome opposition
    - The ability to empathize
  - The pronoun "own" (line 16) refers to
    - "Sire" (line 9)
    - "nurse" (line 13)
    - "lore" (line 13)
    - "patience" (line 14)
    - "woe" (line 16)
  - The adjective "terrific" (line 17) is best interpreted to mean
    - extraordinary
    - menacing
    - timorous
    - wondrous
    - transcendent

6. Which of the following accounts for the ironic tone of "And leave us leisure to be good" (line 20)?
- A) The speaker incorrectly assumes that he has the power to banish "Folly's idle brood" (line 18).
  - B) The speaker never distinguishes "good" (line 20) from "Joy" (line 19).
  - C) The speaker assumes in using "us" (line 20) that he speaks for others as well as for himself.
  - D) Abstract entities like Folly and Joy cannot be dismissed as the speaker suggests.
  - E) Leisure is most often associated with idleness rather than with virtue.
7. Which of the following best restates "light they disperse" (line 21)?
- A) They bring darkness.
  - B) They proffer deception.
  - C) They dispense Joy.
  - D) They scatter swiftly.
  - E) They vanish magically.
8. In lines 27-28, "Melancholy" is characterized by her
- A) obedience and fear of Adversity
  - B) reticence and downward gaze
  - C) mysteriousness and profundity of thought
  - D) shallowness and inability to comprehend
  - E) aloofness and disdain for her "summer friend"
9. In lines 25-32, Wisdom, Melancholy, Charity, Justice, and Pity are portrayed as having which of the following in common?
- A) They are members of Adversity's entourage
  - B) They are the sisters of Virtue
  - C) They are qualities that the speaker aspires to attain
  - D) They are subject to the afflictions of Adversity even though they are immortal.
  - E) They have caused "Folly's idle brood" to flee.
10. The "suppliant" in line 33 is
- A) the speaker
  - B) anyone who has suffered
  - C) the speaker's suffering friend
  - D) Charity
  - E) Adversity
11. Which of the following is one aspect of Adversity's "form benign" (line 41)?
- A) "iron scourge" (line 3)
  - B) "frown terrific" (line 17)
  - C) "thoughtless Joy" (line 19)
  - D) "rapturous thought" (line 26)
  - E) "chastening hand" (line 34)

12. The phrase "Thy philosophic train" (line 43) contrasts most directly with
- A) "relentless power" (line 1)
  - B) "purple tyrants" (line 7)
  - C) "Wisdom, in sable garb arrayed" (line 25)
  - D) "the vengeful band" (line 36)
  - E) "generous spark extinct" (line 45)
13. As the poem progresses, the speaker's mode of expression shifts from one of
- A) criticism to acceptance
  - B) homage to entreaty
  - C) rationality to enthusiasm
  - D) uncertainty to resolution
  - E) languor to determination
14. Which of the following pairs of words function as *opposites* in the poem?
- A) "power" and "tamer" (lines 1 and 2)
  - B) "Virtue" and "woe" (lines 10 and 16)
  - C) "Folly" and "Joy" (lines 18 and 19)
  - D) "suppliant" and "impious" (lines 33 and 37)
  - E) "benign" and "philosophic" (lines 41 and 43)

### Answer Key

1) C 2) B 3) E 4) E 5) B 6) E 7) D 8) B 9) A 10) A 11) E 12) D 13) B 14) D