

## Chapter- 8

# On Killing a Tree

**STUDY NOTES**

- The poem begins ironically, describing the crime committed by the tree. For years, it has consumed the earth's crust. Like a thief, it has absorbed sunlight, air and water and has grown up like a giant. So the tree must be killed. But it is not an easy task.
- A simple jab of the knife will not do it. From close to the ground, it will rise up again and grow to its former size.
- It will again become a threat to man. So the tree should be tied with a rope and pulled out entirely. Its white, bleeding root should be exposed.
- Then it should be browned and hardened and twisted and withered and it is done. The poem gives a realistic picture man's attitude towards trees.
- The tree is his greatest friend. But man is so foolish that he doesn't realise the fact that he is cutting his own throat when he cuts a tree.
- The poet despite violence literally and non-violence ironically.
- The root of the tree is like the love that is essential for human beings to survive. This love is given to us our parents who take years to nurture us into strong individuals.
- If this love is chopped off, the giver that is the parents, wither, decay and go in to oblivion