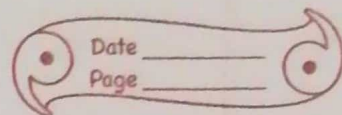


26.7.21

NIGHT OF THE SCORPION



Nissim Ezekiel (1924-2004) was born in India to an Indian Jewish family. He studied in Bombay and London. He wrote eight collections of poetry and won the Akademi Award for a volume called (*Latter Day Psalms*)

The poem is about the ~~mother is merely~~ night ~~the~~ when a woman (the poet's mother) in a poor village in India is stung by a scorpion, concerned neighbours pour into her hut to offer advice and help. All sorts of cures are tried by the neighbours her husband and the local holy man, but time proves to be the best healer - after twenty hours! it lost its sting.

After her ordeal, the mother is merely thankful that the scorpion stung her and not the children. The poem exposes the superstitions that dominate. The poem has no rhyme scheme. It has eight stanzas with a different number of lines

in each

Vocabulary

Buzz: To make a continuous, low sound such as the one a bee makes

Evil one: morally bad, cruel, or very unpleasant

Giant: extremely large

Mudbaked: rectangular block of clay baked by the sun or in a kiln used as a building or paving material

~~Twisted~~ Twisted: bent so that the original shape is changed

Spared: bent so that the original shape is changed

Literary Devices

Alliteration - stung by a scorpion, Parting with his poison, diabolic tail in the dark, risked the rain, poison paralyzing, through and through, flame feeding

Antonyms - previous / next evil / good, sceptic / rationalist, curse / blessing

~~Metaphor~~ Metaphor - scorpion is the evil one

Simile - like swarms of flies.

onomatopoeia - Buzzed

personification: 1) Diabolic Tail 2) He
rushed the train again