

Poet's introduction

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'.

WHAT IS NIGHT OF THE SCORPION ABOUT?

The poem is about the night 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~~ <sup>advise</sup> and help. All sorts of cures are tried by the neighbours here husband and the local holy man, but time proves

VOCABULARY

- Sting: If an insect, plant, or animal stings, it produces small but painful injury.
- Steady: happening in a smooth, gradual and regular way.
- Crawl: to move along on hands and knees or with your body stretched out along a surface.

- Beneath: under someone or something.
- Sack: a large bag made of strong cloth, paper, or plastic, used to store large amounts of something.
- Diabolic: having the qualities of devil or wicked.
- Paralyse: to stop an activity
- Diminished: reduced; to lessen
- Wailing: a mournful sound conveying pain or grief.
- Rationalist: a person who believes in reason and knowledge than opinion and belief.
- Tantations: the chanting of words claim to have magical powers.
- Peasants: farmers/a member of a low class of farm workers and owners of small farms.
- Swarms of flies: a swarm of bees or other insects is a large group of them flying together.



- Buzz: to ~~make~~ make a continuous, low sound such as the one a bee makes.
- Evil one: morally bad, cruel, or very unpleasant.
- Giant: extremely ~~great~~ large.
- Mudbaked: rectangular block of clay baked by the sun or in a kiln; used as a building or paving material.
- Sins: Bad deeds
- Twisted: bent so that the original shape is changed
- Spared: left

## LITERARY DEVICES

Alliteration: stung by a scorpion, parting with his poison, diabolic tail in the dark, risked the rain, poison purify, through and through, poured a little paraffin, flame feeding.

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

Metaphor - scorpion is the Evil one.

Simile - like swarms of flies.

Onomatopœia - Buzzed

Personification - 1.) Diabolic tail, 2.) He risked the rain again

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