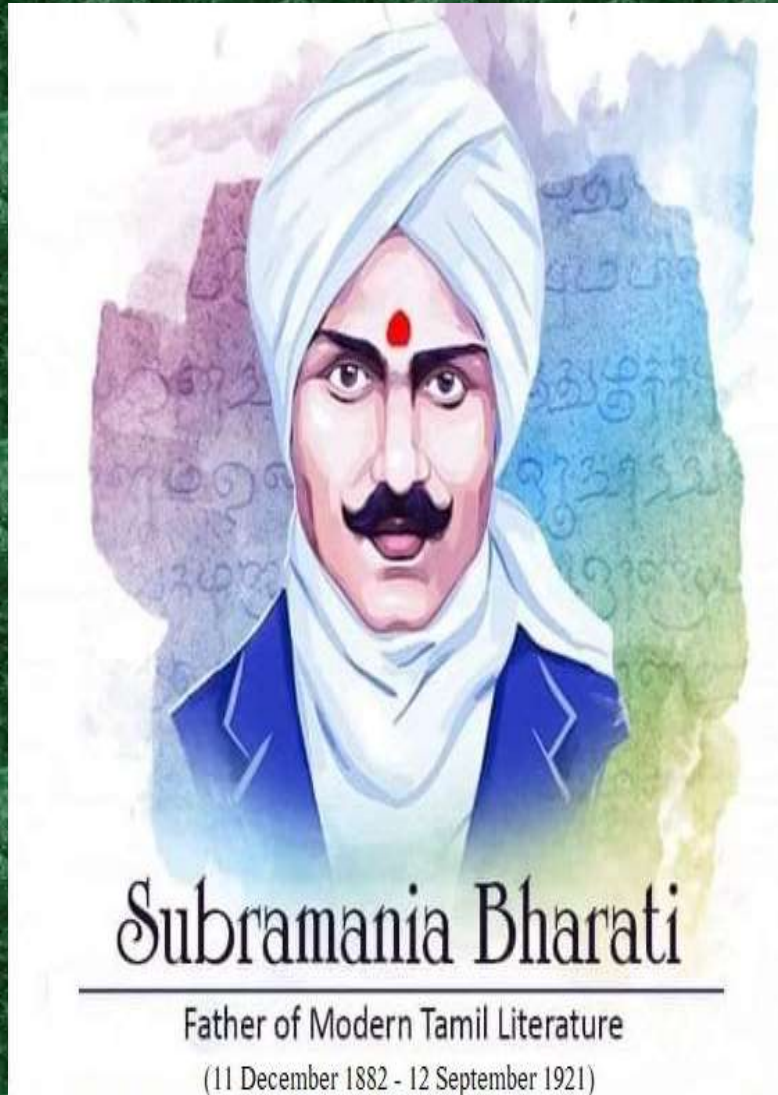




**WIND
BY**

**SUBRAMANIA BHARATI
CLASS - IX**



ABOUT THE POET

- ❑ Chinnaswami Subramania Bharathi, is also known as Bharathiyar.
- ❑ He was a Tamil writer, poet, journalist, Indian independence activist, a social reformer and a polyglot (multilingual).
- ❑ Popularly known as “Mahakavi Bharathi”, he was a pioneer of modern Tamil poetry.
- ❑ Three of his greatest works namely, Kuyil Pattu, Panchali Sapatham and Kannan Pattu were composed during 1912.
- ❑ He also translated Vedic hymns, Patanjali's Yoga Sutra and Bhagavat Gita to Tamil.



Wind

*The wind blows strongly and causes a lot of destruction.
How can we make friends with it?*

Wind, come softly.
Don't break the shutters of the windows.
Don't scatter the papers.
Don't throw down the books on the shelf.
There, look what you did — you threw them all down.
You tore the pages of the books,
You brought rain again.
You're very clever at poking fun at weaklings.
Frail crumbling houses, crumbling doors, crumbling rafters,
crumbling wood, crumbling bodies, crumbling lives,
crumbling hearts —
the wind god winnows and crushes them all.
He won't do what you tell him.
So, come, let's build strong homes,
Let's joint the doors firmly.
Practise to firm the body.
Make the heart steadfast.
Do this, and the wind will be friends with us.
The wind blows out weak fires.
He makes strong fires roar and flourish.
His friendship is good.
We praise him every day.

SUBRAMANIA BHARATI

[translated from the Tamil by
A.K. Ramanujan]

*Subramania Bharati (1882-1921) is a great Tamil poet, famous
for his patriotism in the pre-Independence era.
A.K. Ramanujan is a Kannada and English poet, well known for
his translation of classical and modern poetry.*





THEME OF THE POEM :

The poem 'Wind' is a symbolic poem. The wind symbolizes all the difficulties, obstacles, struggles that we have to face in life. Through this **poem** the poet conveys to the readers that even when you face a lot of hardships and obstacles in life, you should never give up, instead you should befriend those obstacles. We should be mentally tough and physically strong in order to survive the hardships of life.

Just like the **poet**, who tries to befriend his hardship, the **wind** so that it may help him instead of harming him. According to the poet only courageous and confident people can surmount these difficulties and emerge victoriously. The **poem** is written in simple verse.

Line 1 to 4

Wind, come softly.

Don't break the shutters of the windows.

Don't scatter the papers.

Don't throw down the books on the shelf.

Explanation:

In the above lines the poet is talking to the wind. He is requesting the wind to blow gently and not to destroy anything with its harsh force. He asks the wind not to break the shutters of the window and not to scatter the papers here and there. He also pleads the wind not to throw the books from the shelf. In these lines the poet describes the destructive power of the wind.



Line 5 to 8

There, look what you did — you threw them all down.
You tore the pages of the books.
You brought rain again.
You're very clever at poking fun at weaklings.

Word Meanings:

Tore : to tear

Weaklings: one who is weak

Poking : to interfere

Explanation:

In these lines the poet says to the wind to look how much destruction it had done. It has thrown everything down and disorganized everything in the shelf. Because of its strength the pages of the books have been torn down. The poet then blames the wind that it has brought rain along with it. In a sad and critical tone he tells the wind that it is very clever in making fun of those things which are weak (like small plants, children, huts etc) ., they all get scared and even fall and get hurt. Initially, when the poet has introduced the wind, he compared its power with that of a small child, that's why he asked the wind to come softly. But, later the wind has become destructive like a youth, full of energy, violence and destruction.



Lines 9 to 11

Frail crumbling houses, crumbling doors, crumbling rafters,
crumbling wood, crumbling bodies, crumbling lives,
crumbling hearts —
the wind god winnows and crushes them all.

Word Meanings:

crumbling: falling or to cause something to break

rafter: sloping beam which support the roof of the building

winnows: to broke grain free of chaff, separate grain from husk by blowing on it

Explanation:

Here, in the above lines the poet says that the wind is so mighty that it is breaking everything that comes on its way. He says that the weak houses are falling, the doors are breaking down, the beams which was supporting the roof of the building is falling, wooden structures are falling. All the living things which are weak are either breaking down or falling. The people are scared of the wind and their hearts are beating faster. So, the poet is saying that whenever a weak person faces any adversity or challenge in life he breaks down and falls.

The poet is addressing the wind as God. He has compared the people with wheat and says that as we winnow the wheat to separate the grain from the chaff, similarly, the Wind God separates the strong people from the weak people. Due to heavy and strong wind, all the weak things fall and get destroyed.



Lines 12 to 17

He won't do what you tell him.
So, come, let's build strong homes,
Let's joint the doors firmly.
Practice to firm the body.
Make the heart steadfast.
Do this, and the wind will be friends with us.

Word Meanings:

Firmly : strongly , tightly

Steadfast :faithful ,devoted , loyal

Explanation:

In the above lines the poet addresses the readers that the wind will not listen to anybody ,hence we have to make ourselves strong . We should built strong homes and fix the doors tightly so that the wind cannot break in the house and destroy everything. Metaphorically the poet is motivating the readers to make themselves strong and daring in order to face all the difficulties in life. He says that by doing all these things, the wind will become friends with us



Lines 18 to 21

The wind blows out weak fires.
He makes strong fires roar and flourish.
His friendship is good.
We praise him every day.

Word Meanings:

flourish: grow

Roar – to make a loud noise

Explanation :

In the above lines the poet is describing the wind as both creator and destroyer. As a creator it encourages and foster strong fires and as a destroyer it blows out weak fire. The friendship with wind is good ,we should praise his friendship everyday. Here, the poet conveys a strong message that we should not cry or consider ourselves weak when problems arise in our life but face them with courage. We should learn to overcome the hardships of life.



Literary devices in the poem

- 1. Anaphora** - When a word is repeated at the start of two or more consecutive lines, it is the device of Anaphora.
Lines 2, 3, 4 begin with 'don't'.
Lines 6, 7, 8 begin with 'you'.
- 2. Personification** – wind has been personified. When the poet says 'you are', he is referring to wind as 'you' that means he is treating wind as a person.
- 3. Repetition** - 'crumbling' is repeated many times to lay emphasis. The poet wants to say that the wind crushes everything that is weak. That is why he repeats the word crumbling.
- 4. Alliteration** - the repetition of a consonant sound in close connection. 'wind winnows'.
'won't want'
- 5. Symbolism** - Symbolism means that the thing refers to some other thing. the wind is a symbol. It refers to the challenges in life. He is using wind as a symbol for the adversities in our life
- 5. Rhyme scheme** - The entire poem is written in free verse. There is no rhyme scheme in the poem.

Summary of the Poem:

The poet requests the wind to blow gently. He asks the wind not to break the shutters of the windows, scatter the papers and throw down the books from the shelf. But the wind does not listen to him and turns violent and destructive. It throws down everything and tears the pages of the books. The poet accuses the wind of bringing rain once again. He tells the wind that it always makes fun of weak people and things. It crumbles down weak houses, weak doors, and weak rafters. It tears down weak bodies and fragile hearts. But does no harm to the strong. The poet says that it is up to the wind god whether it brings destruction or shows mercy on humanity. The poet suggests the reader that to make friends with the wind we need to build strong homes with firm doors. He also suggests people be strong, both physically and mentally to combat and resist the ill effects of the wind. The last four lines of the poem tell us about the nature of the wind.

It blows out those fires which burn with a weak force, but the strong fires turn stronger by the wind. It means that the wind is supportive of those who are already strong and powerful but crushes the weak. A very significant message is hidden in these four lines-strong people are not affected by adversities but the weak do. So, it is good to be a friend of the wind, which is a symbol of hardships and obstacles, because only then we will be able to face tough times.