

Wedding Eve

POETRY (20 MARKS)

Read the following poem and then answer the questions that follow.

Should I

Or should I not

Take the oath to love

For ever

This person I know little about?

Does she love me?

Or my car

Or my future

Which I know little about?

Will she continue to love me?

When the future she saw in me

Crumbles and fades into nothing

Leaving the naked me

To love without hope?

Will that smile she wears

Last through the hazards to come

When fate strikes

Across the dreams of tomorrow?

Like the clever passenger in a faulty plane,
Wear her life jacket
And jump out to save her life
Leaving me crush into the unknown?

What magic can I use?
To see what lies beneath
Her angel face and well-knit hair
To see her hopes and dreams
Before I take an oath
To love forever?

We are both wise chess players
She makes a move
I make a move
And we trap each other in our secret dreams
Hoping to win against each other

~ *Everett Standa*

QUESTION

1. Comment on the title of this poem. [3 marks]
2. Explain the dilemma of speaker in the first stanza. [2 marks]
3. What is the speaker's attitude towards their relationship?
4. Discuss and illustrate two character traits of the persona. [4 marks]
5. Comment on the imagery of the plane. [3 marks]
6. Explain how the relationship is compared to a game of chess. [3 marks]
7. Explain the meaning of the following line: leaving the naked me. [3 marks]

Answers

1. The wedding eve is supposed to be a time of joy happiness and anticipation. The persona however, is riddled with doubts and apprehension(1 mk)
2. The speaker has organized the wedding but he is not sure whether or not to take the oath to love forever. He is doubtful whether the relationship will last
3. The speaker's attitude towards the relationship is one of doubt and apprehension(1mk)
4.

Doubtful should I or should I not/will she continue to love me.

Fearful apprehensive fears to take the marriage vows.

Suspicious – the speaker is not sure of the lover's commitment.

The rhetorical question in the poem helps to bring out the speaker's doubts about the relationship and about the commitment of his would – be wife
5. The imagery of the plane is quite appropriate .Being in a plane might be fun but it is also very risky; you could easily lose your life if the plane crashes. Being in a doubtful relationship is like being in faulty plane
6. The relationship is compared to a game of chess in that the two will try to out-do each other. The relationship is seen to be like a competition.

“Leaving the naked me “is an expression of desolation and hopelessness. If he were to be left he would feel naked and useless