**Forest of Europe**

**Short Answer:**

**Q. How does the opening of the poem evoke the feelings of desolation and dislocation?**

**Ans:-** The opening of the poem evokes the feelings of desolation and dislocation through the graphic description of the scene that is not captivated and interesting. The last leaves are falling itself evokes the feeling of dislocation. The music made by the felling of leaves is not catchy one but awkward. The winter forest presents a very hapless and unpleasant scene. It looks like empty Orchestra. The poet presents the scene where oval shaped leaves fall on the snow like scribing on the snow. Overall the description of the desolated scene through various images evokes the feelings of dislocation and desolation.

**Q. Why does the poet feel that there is no safe haven for the poet when Osip Mandustam and Gulag Archipelago are mentioned.**

**Ans:-** The poem “Forests of Europ’s explores the experience of exile and alienation with particular reference to poets across cultures. The poets are dislocated from their birth places because explore the cruel treatment of humanity by selfish social watch dogs. When they are exiled, they are not given human treat meant by the diasporas societies. So both the places, for the revolutionary poets, are desolated. The poets refers to the Russian poet and essayist Osip Mandelstam who was imprisoned by soviet authorities and in 1930 only because he gave voice to oppressed class. Likewise he refers to Gulag Archipelago, a book that witnesses the cruel treatment in the forced labour lamp of which its author Solzhenitsyn was himself a victim. Remembering these two authors and there wretched life, the poet feels that there is no safe heaven for the poet. **Q. Why is the poet’s sense of alienation heightened with the lines “Watching the river mist ….. not with poets ……”**

**Ans:-** ‘Forest of Europe’ is a poem in which the exiled poet Derrick Walcott expresses his anguish and traumatic experience of exiled poets. The poet explores the pain of dislocation along with the sense of alienation in a diasporas land in these lines. The poem explores the experience of exile and sense of alienation across culture. In these quoted lines the alienation effect heightens because European societies also offer a cold heart to poets. Although poetry is a sacrificial work but still the power lies in the hands political sovereigns. He finds no relief to his pain in a European country. He asserts that both European and non European counties are ruled by despotic rulers where lovers of humanity are treated with utter cruelty.

**Q. What kind of sustenance does the poet draw from last stanza of the poem?**

**And:-** Derrick Walcott believes that artistic creation is a sacrificial work. He believes that artistic work demands hard labour so it is no less than a sacrifice. But despite his attitude towards poetic art, with somber reflection, he believes that poets bring no significant change. In the last stanza there is an optimistic note that his poems will serve as a beacon like those of Mandelstam did for him and his friends. The poet says that at least they will exchange guttural in the winter cave. In exile his poetry will depict the alienation effect and other problem that all diasporas writers so that it will serve as beacon for his friends who share the same history and same fate.

**Long Answer:**

**Q. Comment on the poem as an exploration of the theme of exile and alienation.**

**Ans:-** ‘Forest of Europe’ is written by Derrick Walcott for his friend Joseph Brodsky. Joseph Brodsky was a great exiled poet of Russia. The poem explores the experience of exile and alienation with particular experience to poets across cultures. For a poet alienated from his history and heritage language becomes an instrument of survival. The exiled poet remembers and reveres his stories and songs. Referring directly to American and Russian histories, the poet links the alienation of poets to the inhuman and debased treatment to humanity by the society. The alienation – effect heightens when the poet mentions that European societies also offer a cold heart to exiled poets. Although poetry is a sacrificial work but still the power lies in the hands of political sovereigns. He finds no relief to his pain in a European. Country. He asserts that both European and non – European countries are ruled by despotic rulers where loves of humanity are treated with utter cruelty. He uses all types of words in order to show his anger for European, American or Caribbean societies. The opening of the poem evokes the feeling of desolation and dislocation through the graphic description of the scene that is not captivated and interesting. The last leaves are falling itself evokes the feeling of dislocation. The music made by the felling of leaves is not catchy one but awkward. The winter forest presents a very hapless and unpleasant scene. It looks like empty Orchestra. Here, the exiled community is compared with winter forest. By the end of the poem the poet asserts that poetry cannot bring any revolution but his poetry like Mandelstam’s can at least become a relief for the exiled community.

**Q. What does poetry mean and what is required for great poetry according to the poet?**

**Ans:-** According to Walcott poetry is the artistic use of language where feelings and grievance are evoked in an effective manner. Like his fellow poets like Mandelstam and Brodsky, Walcott is a preacher of Methodism. Methodists believe in the philosophy which would help to uplift the downtrodden. So through poetry poets must be able to imbibe in people the ways of living not escapism. Although the poet believes that poetry cannot bring any significant change but at least it should help by encouraging them to combat with worst situations. Moreover Walcott believed that great poetry needs hard labour. It is no less than a sacrifice. He urges in the poet that great poetry is the fruit of the painful labour. According to poet poetry should be good and useful. It must be composed in such a manner it must become oral and pass from one person to other. According to him great poetry requires universality. It must become voice of the people. Walcott believe that when artistic creation is made by hard labour it will become immortal. In this poem he writes.

Form hand to mouth across centuries the bread that last when ystems are decayed.