



Wind

SUBRAMANIA BHARATI

The wind blows strongly and causes a lot of destruction.

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 join the doors firmly.

Practice 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.

Central Idea –

This poem is derived from the poet's observation and devotion. He seeks the effects of the wind in general and of stormy weather. He also praises the wind god. We are able to appreciate the keenness of the poet's vision, and his unique thought process about something as apparently simple as the wind.



Thinking about the Poem

1. What are the things the wind does in the first stanza?
Ans. *In the first stanza, the wind blows so strongly that it throws down the books from the shelves and tearing its papers. It also brings rain.*
2. What does the poet say the wind god winnows?
Ans. *The poet says that the wind destroys weak houses, everything at home, weak bodies, weak hearts and even takes lives of those that are weak.*
3. What should we do to make friends with the wind?
Ans. *As the wind favours the strong, we should build strong homes and sturdy doors, make our bodies and hearts strong to make friends with the wind.*
4. What do the last four lines of the poem mean to you?
Ans. *The last four lines convey the message that only strong people, both physically and mentally, are able to withstand the troubles that come in their way in life; not only this, these make them stronger. On the other hand, weak people are swept away and defeated.*
5. How does the poet speak to the wind — in anger or with humour?
Ans. *Initially, the poet speaks to the wind with anger, saying that it has thrown down his books from the shelves and torn their pages. However, later the poet's tone changes and he speaks to the wind with humour, inviting it to attack him, as he intends to prepare himself as if waiting for a 'friend'.*

