SAMPLE QUESTIONS ON THE LAMB

1. What is the ‘clothing of delight’?

The phrase ‘clothing of delight’ refers to the wooly coat of a sheep. Fleece is the wood and skin of a sheep when it is made into a piece of clothing. The wooly coat of a sheep is regarded as one of the positive attributes of the lamb.

2. What is the other trait of the lamb?

Owing to the grace and the kindness of its creator, the lamb possesses such a ‘tender voice’ that the whole valley seems to be reverberating with that musical sound.

3. How does the speaker represent nature?

The reference to the stream and the meadow constitutes an idyllic pastoral backdrop against which the lamb can be safely placed as the embodiment of divine bliss and mercy.

4. What are the qualities of the ‘clothing of delight’?

So far as the tactile and the visual sensations are concerned, the ‘clothing of delight’ offers unique comfort because it is ‘softest’, ‘woolly’ and ‘bright’.

5. ‘I a child, and thou a lamb, /We are called by His name’. What kind of bonding is being talked about?

There is a strange bonding between the child and the lamb as both of them stand for a state of pre-lapsarian innocence and purity. The child is in physical proximity with the animal and the child asks it a series of questions. In Christian literature lamb is traditionally represented as a meek and submissive animal testifying to the kindness of God as the creator. The child is also reminiscent of the infant Jesus. In fact there is a fusion of the apparently separate identities of the lamb, the child and the creator. They finally constitute an undivided unity. What the readers primarily find is the unification of the animals and the human beings and then again the unification of the creator and the created beings as well.

6. What are the questions raised by the child?

The child asks the lamb whether it is aware of its creator. He asks the animal if it knows its feeder or the supplier of its woolly and bright ‘clothing of delight’. The first stanza contains these questions. However, instead of waiting for the answers, the child goes on informing the animal about the qualities of the creator.