

## SUMMARY

In order to describe Egypt, the poet uses the perspective of a tourist who appears to have just returned from that country. The traveller recalls seeing a sizable broken statue there in the desert. The statue was missing its top body or torso but had two enormous legs. The statue's second component, a giant face, was scattered across the sand. There were still visible wrinkles on the face, which was smirking furiously and smiling sarcastically. The King's visage and the dead statue's sculptor have both done an amazing job of expressing emotions. The stone was mocked by the sculptor to mimic the king's cruel expressions.

Just below the huge legs, on the platform were written the following words – My name is Ozymandias, king of kings: Look upon my works, ye mighty, and despair. The king introduced himself as Ozymandias, the most powerful king in the entire world, with these words. He was ordering other

rulers to kneel before his enormous monument. Only the message inscribed survived after the statue as a whole had been damaged and faded from the sun and rain. Instead of standing tall, the monument was observed lying in the desert. It isn't perceived as something that stands out in the desert, though. Nothing remains constant and unchanging forever. Things come and go, just like Ozymandias the Great and his monument.

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A. Answer the following questions.

1. What had the traveller seen in the desert?

Ans: The traveller came across a statue in the desert with enormous legs, whose head was laying on the sand, damaged, and even decaying from the weight of time.

2. What expression could be seen on the broken face of the statue?

Ans: The face of the broken statue of Ozymandias had the expression of displeasure and a sneer of cold command.

3. Explain the meaning of the line: 'that its sculptor well those passions read'.

Ans: The line "that its sculptor well those passions read" indicate that the sculptor of the Ozymandias statue was very talented because he was able to capture the haughtiness, coldness, and arrogance of the ruthless and powerful ruler to the letter.

4. What was written on the pedestal on which the statue stood?

Ans: The words stated on the pedestal on which the statue stood were "My name is Ozymandias, king of kings: look upon my works, ye mighty, and despair!"

5. What else can be seen in the desert beside the statue?

Ans: Except for the damaged statue of Ozymandias, there is nothing. The ruins of the broken statue in the desert are surrounded by nothing but sand, "boundless and barren," as far as the eye can see.

6. Discuss the irony of in the last six lines of the poem.

Ans: The poet's final six lines were intended to convey the message: Behold the magnificence of my civilization and sorrow at the smallness of your own in comparison. Ironically, only a broken monument is all that's left of that glory and force, proving that even the most powerful civilizations eventually fall into ruins.

B. Read the lines from the poem and answer the questions with reference to the context.

1. ' My name is Ozymandias , king of kings:

Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!'

Nothing besides remains.

a) Where did these words appear?

- b) To whom were these words directed?
- c) What do these words reveal about the character of Ozymandias?

Ans: a) The above mentioned words appeared on the pedestal on which the statue stood.

b) Ozymandias is referring to someone who believes in their own strength. He challenges him, telling him to consider their might after seeing at Ozymandias' creation.

c) Ozymandias was egotistical, haughty, and arrogant. With others, he acted in a condescending manner. He expected everyone to fawn, bow, and follow his instructions. He instilled in everyone the fear that they would be punished if they disobeyed his orders or wishes.

### C. Extra – Questions

1. What is a sonnet?

Ans: A sonnet is a style of poetry with 14 lines and 10 syllables each line. In a predetermined rhythm, every line rhymes with every other line.

2. Who was Ozymandias?

Ans: Ozymandias was a formidable monarch of Egypt who was haughty and conceited. As the king of kings, he proclaimed himself to be he had the conviction that no other powerful king could ever match his greatness.

3. Whose greatness is actually glorified in the poem?

Ans: While the political influence of King Ozymandias has already been turned to dust, the sculptor's artistic creations are still visible, as a result of which the poem truly glorifies the greatness of the sculptor.

4. What does "Wrinkled lip and sneer of cold command" signify?

Ans: The phrase "wrinkled lip and sneer of cold command" signifies the king's haughtiness and illustrates perfectly how much influence the king must have had over his subjects. Additionally, it clearly demonstrates how well the sculptor researched the king's passions and character traits.

5. What is the message that the poet wants to convey in the poem?

Ans: The poet's message in the poem is that a king's authority and pride are temporary. The statue of the once-powerful ruler Ozymandias is now scattered around a sizable desert. The king's power is no longer obvious. Both the king and his empire are vanished. The statue's ruins, which reflect the greatness of the artist, are all that are left. The author expresses to the reader through this poem the concepts of human death and the enduring nature of art.

6. What else remained there besides the broken statue? What does it signify?

Ans: Apart from the damaged statue of Ozymandias, nothing else was left. In the middle of the barren and constrained stretch of sand in the desert, there was nothing but a "shattered face" and two "trunkless legs" of stone.

It represents the concepts of human mortality, the temporality of political authority, and the enduring nature of all forms of artistic expression.

7. Whom did the narrator of 'Ozymandias of Egypt' meet?

Ans: The narrator met a traveller.

8. What do the words on the pedestal of the statue of Ozymandias imply?

Ans: Ozymandias had the conviction that no other powerful king could ever match his greatness. However, only the statue's remains are still visible, and this is used as a metaphor to discuss the transience of political authority. Additionally, it conveys to the reader the concepts of human mortality and the transience of art.

9. Where does the traveller in Shelly's poem come from?

Ans: The traveller comes from 'antique land'.

10. Which country is referred to as an antique land?

Ans: Egypt.

11. What is it that lies near the legs of stone in the desert?



Ans: A shattered, half-sunk visage is located close to the stone legs in the desert.

12. What did the traveller from the antique land tell the poet?

Ans: A pair of stone legs that are strangely still standing in the middle of the desert are described to the poet by the traveller. These enormous legs lack the trunk of the body to which they should belong.

13. Why does Ozymandias refer to himself as ‘king of kings’?

Ans: Ozymandias was a powerful king who had conquered and seized many of the neighbouring kingdoms. He was proud about his fame and dominion and thus believed himself to be the strongest of all.

14. Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,

The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed.

a) What do “lifeless things” refers to?

b) How do we know that he was a good sculptor?

c) How did the heart feed the passions?

Ans: a) The 'lifeless things' refers to the broken pieces of the statue of Ozymandias.

b) The sculptor read the emotions on the face of Ozymandias and clearly transferred them into stone.

c) Using his skill the sculptor expressed the emotions of the cruel heart of the ruler on the face of his statue.

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