



SUBJECT: **ENGLISH**

Paper: **COMMUNICATIVE ENGLISH**

TITLE: **NIGHT OF THE SCORPION**

Author: **NISSIM EZEKIEL**



BY

PROF. P. ASHRAF ALI KHAN



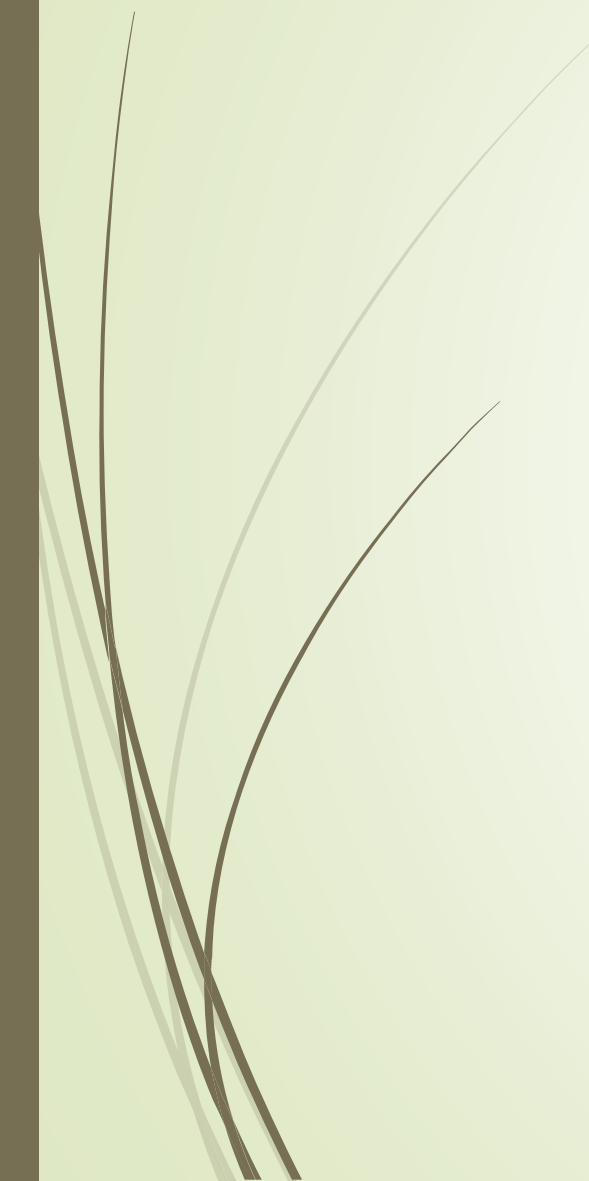

INTRODUCTION

- “Night of the Scorpion” is a notable poem written by Nissim Ezekiel. He was a famous poet, playwright, editor and art critic. He was awarded the Sahitya Academy Award in 1983 for his poetry collection, “Latter-Day Psalms”.


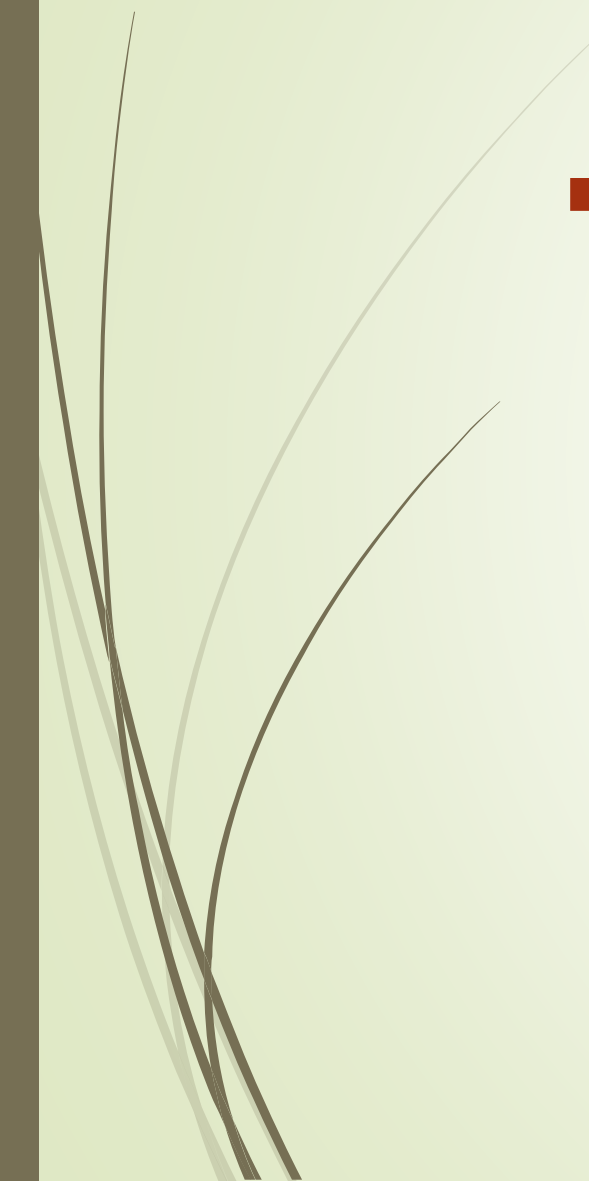


SUMMARY

- In the poem, the poet remembers the night when his mother was stung by a scorpion. He says that the heavy rain that lasted for ten hours had made the scorpion crawl beneath a sack of rice. It bit his mother with its diabolic tail and went out.



➤ Hearing about the incident, the villagers rushed to the poet's house like swarms of flies and buzzed the name of God a hundred times to paralyse the evil one. They searched for the scorpion and their shadows appeared like a giant scorpion on the mud-baked walls. They believed that his poison moved in the poet's mother's blood with the movement of the scorpion. They wished that the sins of her previous birth be burnt away and her suffering might decrease the misfortunes of her next birth and so on and so forth. They sat on the floor with the poet's mother in the centre and watched her suffering.

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- The poet's father was a rationalist. He tried every cure and even poured a little paraffin upon the bitten toe and put a match to it. The holy man tried to tame the poison with an incantation. But it subsided on its own after twenty hours. The poet's mother thanked God for choosing her as the scorpion's victim and sparing her children. The poem is an excellent example of a mother's selfless love.