



**ATTINGAL EDUCATIONAL DISTRICT
STANDARD X
ENGLISH
ANSWER KEY-13**

1. The old priest Peter Gilligan
Was weary night and day.
2. For half his flock were in their beds
Or under green sods lay.
3. Evening time
4. Father Gilligan began to grieve.
- 5.

The 'Ballad of Father Gilligan' by the famous Irish poet W. B. Yeats is a beautiful narrative poem about the conscious dilemma in the mind of the priest, Peter Gilligan. He is the servant of God who is bound by faith, to look after the welfare of the people. As his flocks, die and die, the pious old priest finds it hard to perform his priestly duties. He is totally exhausted.

The parishioners of Father Gilligan had contracted a deadly epidemic and hence were dying. Half of them were sick waiting for their deaths. Father Gilligan had to perform his priestly obligations for those dying people. He was physically exhausted and he started grumbling to himself that he had neither rest, joy nor sleep. Next moment, he apologised to God that it was his body which spoke and not he.

The poet has used vivid imagery in the poem. The image of flocks in their beds or under green sods lay evoke a sense of sympathy. The use of alliteration lends a charm to the poem. The stanzas follow the rhyme scheme abcb. The rhyme scheme and the rhyming words provide a rhythm to the poem that makes it a pleasurable reading. The rich use of poetic devices makes the stanzas beautiful. Through these lines the reader feels the presence of the humble man and his ever forgiving kind God.

The lines which impressed me are 'God forgive! My body spake not !!'. The poem is written in a narrative style and the poem follows a sympathetic tone. The theme of the poem is God's omnipresence and grace in the lives of the faithful.