

Q) Based on your analysis, write a critical appreciation of the poem, 'The Wreck of the Titanic'.

Ans) The poem 'The Wreck of Titanic' by Benjamin Peck Keith is an excellent one. The poem tells how noble people could be even in times of danger. It talks about the sinking of the Titanic and brings out the best in men even in the most adverse circumstances threatening their lives.

From Southampton the Titanic starts her voyage. It was a beautiful and grand ship. She was a sea dream. Thousands of people standing on the shore watched her steaming away. She was the largest and the grandest of all the ships made until then. There were thousands of passengers in the ship. They felt very secure. Nobody thought of any danger, as the captain stood at the wheel. He was directing the course of the ship. The ship was speeding on her first voyage when suddenly, out of the darkness, in the night, a ghostly white, iceberg appeared. Soon it collided with the ship wrecking it. It soon began to sink and people knew it was sinking.

Captain Smith was the commander of the ship. He was brave. Not even for one moment he thought of saving his life. He stood on the bridge and told his crew that they were British and they should remember their country and should do their duty. They decided to send the women and children in the lifeboats. The crew had no hope of saving themselves. The Titanic sank from sight, as the band played 'Nearer my God to Thee'. There never was a scene grander or more tragic than this. The ship was sinking but the band was playing. All credit goes to Smith, the crew and the men of Titanic. Their bravery and courage will be remembered forever. They had showed such courage and nobility during the great tragedy.

The poem has different themes which include shipwreck, duty and sacrifice. It appeals to our emotions like patriotism, love for one's fellow-beings and pity. The poet has used simple, lucid and conversational language. The poem is in rhyme and the rhyming scheme is aabb. It has a fine rhythm and it sounds melodious. It has fine imagery and the poet has used a number of figures of speeches, especially metaphor and personification. The poem has great relevance as it gives insights about crisis management, the need for compassion, fortitude and heroism in times of crises.