

## RAKSHA-BANDHAN

A piece of silken tassel tipped with gold,  
Tied round the wrist by loving sister's hand,  
A sacred day in Sravan, when the lands  
Are bathed in welcome rain, is said to hold  
A potent charm for good. From days of old  
This pretty faith has come and happy bands  
Of brothers still pay heed to its commands  
One day each year. Who will be rashly bold  
And flout this festival as void of worth:  
An ancient mummary-to which man shows  
His slavish piety? Let him, who knows  
Of being more devoted than the fair,  
Of wished purer than a sister's care,  
And stronger powers than woman's love on earth.

- P. Sheshadri

### About the Poem

It is a short narrative poem. It is about Rakhi or Raksha Bandan, which is India's popular and holy festival. The poet wants to attract our attention towards the sanctity of this holy festival Raksha-Bandhan. It is the festival which celebrates the purity of relationship between brother and sisters. The poem is written in simple diction.

It is written by P. Sheshadri, former Principal of the Government college, Ajmer.

### GLOSSARY

Silken tassel	:	A tuft of loosely hanging silken thread.
charm	:	to exercise a strong influence, as if by magic.
happy bands of brothers	:	A large number of brothers who are happy to get a rakhi tied by their sisters.
flout this festival as	:	Reject this festival, thinking that it is of no worth or value.
an ancient mummary	:	an old and meaningless ceremony.
slavish Piety	:	blind devotion
Who knows of being more	:	Who knows anybody more devoted than the fair women? Indian women are proverbially known for their devotion to their husbands, their children and their brothers.

**A. Tick the correct alternative:**

1. The poem is a .....  
a. Sonnet      b. Elegy      c. Dramatic monologue      d. Epic
2. What does the phrase “ pretty faith” in the poem mean .....  
a. the sanctified relationship between brother and sister  
b. the relationship of purity between Priest and the God  
c. the relationship between the two devotees  
d. the relationship among the members of a community

**B. Answer to the following questions should not exceed 30-40 words each:**

1. In which Hindi month does the festival of Raksha-Bandhan fall?
2. What does the poet think of its value as a sacred rite?
3. How is Rakhi celebrated in your region?
4. How is the weather in Sravan?
5. For whom is this festival important?

**C. Answer to the following should not exceed 60-80 words each:**

1. Do you recall any story related to Raksha Bandhan? Narrate it in your own words.
2. What is the significance of Rakhi? Narrate a historical incident.