



## INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

<b>CLASS: VIII</b>	<b>Department: ENGLISH</b>	<b>Date of Submission: APRIL 2023</b>
<b>QUESTION BANK NO: 6</b>	<b>Topic: IF (POEM) QUESTION BANK</b>	<b>Note: NOTEBOOK</b>

### Summary

The speaker in this poem is a father and he is giving valuable advice to his son on how to be if he wished to be a Man in the true sense of the word. The poem is therefore a string of conditions that the son must fulfil. He must remain calm even when everybody around loses their tempers and blames him for it. He must retain his self-belief when all others doubt him and also excuse them for it. He must remain patient even if the wait seems endless, be honest even when falsehoods are spread about him and be loving even when hated by others.

Despite having these virtues, he must not think of himself as too good or too wise compared to others. He may dream but must guard against becoming a slave to his dreams. He must think but not allow thoughts to remain thoughts—they must give rise to action. He must think of victory and defeat as deceivers because neither state is permanent and so he must remain unaffected by both. He must have the strength to endure the truth, he has uttered twisted by the cunning of others to entrap fools. He must have the fortitude to see life ruined and then pick up the pieces to start anew even though the abilities may have diminished. He must have the courage to risk all his life's earnings on one throw of the dice and restart from the bottom without complaint if he loses.

He must force his body to function even when it loses its strength, and it is only the indomitable will that holds it together. The son must mix with the common people and remain virtuous as well as with the elite and remain grounded. He must deal equally with both foes and friends and so avoid being hurt by either. He must think of everybody impartially. He must spend each minute on this Earth doing something worthwhile. The father tells his son that if he is able to fulfil all these conditions, he will not only have the Earth and everything in it at his command, but he will be something more worthwhile, that is, a true Man.

I Answer the following questions:

1. What should do you do when you are blamed and doubted?
2. Why are 'Triumph and Disaster' called 'two impostors'?
3. How is 'Will' important?
4. How should one's behaviour be with crowds and kings? Why do you think it should be so?
5. What is meant by 'the unforgiving minute'?



**II Explain these lines with reference to the context.**

1. *If you can keep your head when all about you*

*Are losing theirs and blaming it on you*

**a. Which quality does the speaker want his son to have in these lines?**

**b. What do you understand by the term ‘keep your head’ ?**

2. *If you can think- and not make thoughts your aim*

**a. What do you understand by this line?**

**b. What should be the ‘aim’ of the listener?**

3. *If you can bear to hear the truth you’ve spoken*

*Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools*

**a. Who are the ‘knaves’? What quality is attributed to them by the speaker?**

**b. What ‘truth’ is the speaker talking about?**

**III. Think and Answer.**

1. How relevant is the speaker’s advice? How can you imbibe it in your life?

**IV. Match the following weather idioms with their meaning:**

Word	Meaning
1. keep your head	a. any good quality or habit
2. make allowance for	b. tissue that binds muscle to bone
3. impostors	c. to remain calm under stress
4. knaves	d. to consider something.
5. stoop	e. people who pretend, untruthful people
6. worn out	f. Dishonest people
7. sinew	g. to bend down
8. virtue	h. badly damaged; overused

