

CBSE Class 09 English Language and Literature
NCERT Solutions
Beehive Chapter 10
A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal

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1. “A slumber did my spirit seal,” says the poet. That is, a deep sleep ‘closed off’ his soul (or mind). How does the poet react to his loved one’s death? Does he feel bitter grief? Or does he feel a great peace?

Ans: The poet’s reaction to his loved one’s death is not of bitter grief that he could shed out in the form of tears. On her death, he did not experience any human fears. He just looked at her and wondered how she looked and what she would experience later. He did not feel any fear. Therefore, it is difficult to say whether he is experiencing bitter grief or is in a peaceful state of mind.

2. The passing of time will no longer affect her, says the poet. Which lines of the poem say this?

Ans: The lines of the poem that show that the passing of time will no longer affect her are
“She seemed a thing that could not feel
The touch of earthy years.”

3. How does the poet imagine her to be, after death? Does he think of her as a person living in a very happy state (a ‘heaven’)? Or does he see her now as a part of nature? In which lines of the poem do you find your answer?

Ans: The poet thinks that she is now a part of nature. After her death, he imagines her buried inside the earth with other rocks, stones, and trees and rolling around with the earth in its daily rotation. The following lines express this idea-

Rolled round in earth’s diurnal course
With rocks and stones and trees.