

**S. No 8 B.A.Part-3 English (Hons) Topic Explanations *Sailing to Byzantium* by Dr Umesh Prasad Singh, Assistant Prof of English,
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1.Explain: *That is no country for old men.*

Those dying generations –at their song,

Fish, flesh, or fowl commend all summer long

Whatever is begotten born and dies

Caught in that sensual music all neglect

Monuments of unageing intellect.

These lines are taken from W .B. Yeats' poem "Sailing to Byzantium".

These lines present the sensual picture of the country which does not fit for the old men.

The poet has grown old and finds that Ireland is not fit for him to live in. That is a country where all men and women are given to sensual pleasure .All are engrossed in reproductive activities. In such an atmosphere of the country nobody cares for the work of art and

literature. The young neglect all intellectual activities. As the old are excluded from something so are the young from intellectual work. They are captive of sensuality. They are aloof from those things which are beyond the reach of ageing.

The present stanza presents a brief description of the sensual joy; it does refer to the lack of interest of the young in the work of art.

They are unmindful to the intellectual activities .So they are called a dying generation.

To call the young a "dying' generation is the key point of the stanza.

2.Explain: *An aged man is but a paltry thing,
A tattered coat upon a stick, unless
Soul claps it hands and sing louder sing
For every tatter in its mortal dress,
Nor is there singing school but studying
Monuments of its own magnificence:
And therefore I have sailed the sea and come
To the holy city of Byzantium.*

These lines have been taken from the famous poem " Sailing to Byzantium" composed by W.B.Yeats.

In these lines a state of spiritual enjoyment is described instead of the sensual enjoyment. The poet does not find Ireland a fit place for him to live in, when he gets old, it seems to him a country

where everyone, man and woman, the birds and the beasts are given to sexual pleasure.

Old age is a stage in man's life when he becomes incapable of indulging in sexual activity. To be old is merely to be in a state of privation, to be in a bad condition. So the soul of the old man must seek which the young neglect. The more aged the man the happier he should be. The weaker he grows greater should be his interest in the work of art. The best music for the soul of an aged man should be the study and appreciation of the work of art. A man merely old is worse than a tattered coat. So something positive must be added in the old age. The soul of the man should be able to enjoy spiritual delight only then the older man will be the happier man.