

Review of the poem 'The Wreck of the Titanic' by Benjamin Peck Keith

'The wreck of the Titanic' is a poem by Benjamin Peck Keith on the historical tragedy, the sinking of the Titanic on its maiden journey on 14th April 1912.

In the beginning of the poem, the poet describes the beauty of the ship and how it moved from the port of Southampton. Thousands of people stood on the shore watching the beautiful luxurious ship. It is said to be a 'poem of iron and steel' for its beauty and grandeur. It is the largest and the most magnificent ship as it could accommodate thousands of people. As the ship was speeding, it hit an ice berg, a large scary white mass. The people never knew the dooming fate – death stood on her wheels. It began to sink into the depths of the Atlantic Ocean.

The poem here highlights the courageous, responsible commander of the ship, Captain Smith and his crew who tried their best to save the people in the ship. They never bothered of their lives but the women and children. The band in the ship was playing the hymn 'Nearer, my God to thee' to give comfort and confidence to those who are left in the ship. Even though every one was facing death, the captain and his crew showed courage and struggled to save the people. This heroic deed is compared to the brave men in history – the men who had fought at the battle of Alamo, the people who had defeated Napoleon at the battle of Waterloo, those in the Charge of the Light Brigade and Jim Bludso of the Prairie Belle. Their act is noble and praiseworthy and it is beyond comparison as none could be much duty bound and responsible. When the boats are lowered one by one, the band's music to soothen the people is worthy to be mentioned. It is 'awfully grand'.



With simple words and imagery, the poet has successfully created an emotional impact among the readers that they sympathize and empathize at once with the people as well as the Titanic. Though the poem is in elegiac mood, patriotism, sacrifice, sense of duty are exemplified through Captain Smith and his crew. The rhyme adds beauty to the poem. By the use of metaphors - 'poem of iron and steel' and personifying the ship and the death, the poet takes the poem to a high degree of honour.

