

battered with bamboo. It means that your back breaking responsibilities are increased.

Lines 13-14

And when your back begins to smart

It's like a penknife in your heart

Explanation: The poet says that when the miseries life is on your back, you are grieved and upset. If your back smarts, it means it hurts you with a stinging pain. You feel its stab in your heart. It means you feel its cut in your soul.

Lines 15-16

And when your heart begins to bleed

You're dead and dead and dead indeed

Explanation: The poet says that when you feel the stab of something in your heart, it hurts your soul. When the heart bleeds, it wounds the very soul. The wound of soul results in the death of