

QUESTION BANK - ENGLISH

Chapter – 3 -The Letter

Reference to Context Questions/Extract based questions:

Q 1. "Now he understood the meaning of love and separation. He could no longer enjoy the sportsman's pleasure and laughter."

- (i) Who is 'he' referred to?
- (ii) How was real Love growing in Ali's heart?
- (iii) What do you mean by sportsman's pleasure?

Q 2. "He lifted his eyes and in them was a light so unearthly that the postmaster shrank back in fear and astonishment."

- (i) In this extract who lifts his eyes?
- (ii) Whose eyes emitted an unearthly light?
- (iii) What does the author mean by the word 'astonishment'?

Q 3. "Tortured by doubt and remorse, he sat down in the glow of charcoal sigri to wait."

- (i) Who is tortured by doubt and remorse any why?
- (ii) What do you mean by the word 'remorse'?
- (iii) For whom is the character referred to in these lines waiting for?

Q 4. "But when the evening of his life was drawing in, he left his old ways and suddenly took a new turn."

- (i) What does the expression 'evening of life' mean?
- (ii) What old ways has he left?
- (iii) What new turn has his life taken?

Q 5. "In his whole life he had never received a letter, but with a devout serenity born of hope and faith, he persevered and was the first to arrive."

- (i) Whose life is being talked about here?
- (ii) Explain the expression 'devout serenity'.

(iii) What had he persevered and where was he first to arrive?

Q 6. "But he is a bit touched sir. In the old days he committed many sins; and maybe he shed some blood within the sacred precincts and is paying for it now."

(i) Who is the speaker and who is he addressing to?

(ii) Who is the person talked about? What sins does the speaker hint at?

(iii) What do you mean by 'sacred precincts'?

Q 7. "The newly wakened father's heart in him was reproaching him for having failed to understand Ali's anxiety."

(i) Who is the 'newly-wakened' father? Why was his heart reproaching him?

(ii) What values are highlighted in the above lines?

Short answer questions:

Q 1. 'Ali displays qualities of love and patience.' Give evidence from the story to support this statement.

Q 2. The postmaster says to Ali, "What a pest you are, brother!" Do you agree with the statement? Give reasons for your answer.

Q 3. 'Ali displays qualities of love & patience.' Give evidence from the story to support the statement.

Q 4. Why did Coach man Ali give up his favourite sport?

OR

What were Ali's old ways & when did his life taken you turn?

Q 5. The post Office became a place of pilgrimage for Ali. How?

Q 6. How does the author describe the place near the post office?

Q 7. Ali is a true example of love, faith & sacrifice. Elaborate.

Long answer and value based questions:

Q 1. Explain Ali's dictum, 'The whole universe is built up through love and the grief of separation is inescapable.'

Q 2. "Letters and envelopes are not merely dead pieces of paper. They are living documents of human love and concerns."

Write a letter to your father expressing the values you have learnt from Ali.

Q 3. "No one can gauge the depth of human emotions till one identifies oneself with one's fellow beings." The postmaster realizes the pain of Ali when his own daughter was sick. He was full of remorse, guilt and repentance for his ill treatment to Ali. What values do you learn from the condition of postmaster?

Q 4. "The parent child relationship consists of a combination of behaviors, feelings and expectations that are unique to a particular parent and a particular child." Miriam's indifferent behavior towards Ali is responsible for Ali's plight. What responsibilities a daughter or son should have towards their parents?

Q 5. Do you think Ali's misery is a result of his past deeds? Give reasons to justify your answer.

OR

There is an old English proverb "What goes around comes around." Discuss this proverb with respect to both Ali & the Post Master from the story 'The Letter'. What lesson do we learn from their example?

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