



Semester - VI

B.A. Part - III (2021-22)

Project for

English for Communication.

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Std :- B.A. III (semester VI)

Sub :- English

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Q.1. Delineate the character of the 'lighthouse keeper.'

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The lighthouse keeper at Aspinwall near Panama had disappeared all of a sudden without notice, most probably swept away by strong winds and waves and to fill his place within twelve hours was necessary because the sea there was full of sandbars. Guiding the boats travelling between New York and Panama was necessary, which the lighthouse did round the clock.

The life he led had made him a tough man. Even at this age he walked erect, looked enthusiastic. But a time came when he began losing his strength, his will to sustain. He became homesick. Simple things like the sight of the birds, the sound of music brought tears in his eyes. And then he began to seek rest. Rest and peaceful life became his only need. He wanted nothing but a quiet place to lie down and simple, carefree life.

The luck smiled on him for the first time when he appeared for the interview of this job. Now he has what he wanted, safety, silence and rest.

The sea outside had suddenly become stormy. Big, roaring waves were dashing against one acre island where the lighthouse stood. But inside the room with thick walls he was sleeping quietly, undisturbed by the outraged sea.

Q.2. The moral 'Importance of forgiveness' in the short story 'Three questions'.

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There is a proverb in English! To err is human, to forgive divine. The proverb underlines the importance & significance of forgiving. To forgive one needs great and noble mind & heart. The king in the story had that heart, surely. He went to the hermit as a simple, poor man. He asked his questions and when he received no answers, he did not get angry. On the other hand, he forgave the hermit and even dug the bed for him. Then he helped the deeply wounded stranger and the stranger was so moved by the generosity of the king in return promised to restore the attached property of his brother. In other words, he forgave the man for his evil intention & got his reward. He got his answers from the hermit and he got the dependable friendship of his enemy who had vowed revenge on him.

Q.3. Explain the title 'The Mystic Drum'.

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The title is highly significant. The drum in African poetry, generally stands for the spiritual pulse of traditional African life. The drum in the poem is beating inside him, that is it is a part and parcel of his being. The drum is mystic as its impact on nature shows. The fish dance, the men dance to the tune and as the tempo goes up the fishes become men and men become fishes. The nature and humanity amalgamate into each other. Even the dead come alive and dance to the tune of the drum. The sun and the moon, the two eyes of sky also join the dance. The ancestral glory thus overpowers other considerations. And when the beating of the drum stops men and fishes become fishes. All this possible because the drum is mystic.

Drum is part and parcel of African life and culture. It represents a ritual in that culture and in every function they celebrate, drum is there and men and women dance

to the tune of that drum, The drum is not just a symbol of the love of music and dance of the Africans. It has mystic quality. The drum is inside the poet and this means that the very African culture is a part of him. The beating of the drum has magical effect, because the very nature, including fishes in the dance. The impact is such that even the dead dance with their shadows.

Q.4. Aspects of Indian life and culture in 'Eight Rupees'.

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The story "Eight Rupees" presents a peculiar aspect of Indian life: Wealth against poverty. On one side is a rich man and on the other a poor shoe-shine boy. The boy presents a very moving picture of his family, his drunkard father who had forsaken them, picture of his family and his three younger sisters. The poor boy has to work to keep the family fed. The absence of a footrest is an indication of his utter poverty and unhappy life. He cannot save eight rupees to buy a footrest. The rich man placing his foot on the boy's knee is considerate and the boy takes full advantage of it by getting eight rupees from him. The haves and have-nots are thus placed against each other. The boy with the skill of a good salesperson is a cheater and the cheating is probably the result of the utter poverty. A very contrasting picture has been presented through the only two characters in a story: the rich man living in a multi-



storeyed building and the poor shoe-shine boy probably a hettment dweller.