

CHAPTER-03. A WEDDING IN BROWNS VILLE

Isaac Bashevis Singer

ABOUT THE AUTHOR :- Isaac Bashevis Singer was a famous short-story writer of English language. This fiction has been translated in English by Chana Faerslein & Elizabeth Pollet. It is a part extracted from his collection: "The Seance and a friend of Kafka".

SUMMARY :- Dr. Solomon Margolin is a Jewish of Poland in Europe. He is a generous physician Jewish writers and co-editor of an academic Jewish quarterly. Once, he was invited by Abraham Mekheles in his daughter's marriage. He meets there his Senicimer brothers and relatives. He finds all people drunk here and boasting as if these are not people of this earth but supernatural. His mind and body were intoxicated worstly in that environment. He could not judge his falling into reminiscence of the days he had now left far behind when he had a beloved or girlfriend. Her name were Raigel. He catches a glimpse of that lady in the party, however, he knows it well that her family and she herself were during world war, killed mercilessly when he was in Poland. In a sheer ebrious state of mind he talked with her, took her to the wedding canopy and wished to solemnise marriage.

with her but here also, he finds that his wallet was gone, hence could not arrange a penny which was mandatory for marriage ceremony as per Jewish rules. Finally, his dream or apparition of girl friend vanished & he found himself among the people in the hall.

Q. 1. Who was the woman that Dr. Margolin suddenly encountered at the Wedding ?

Ans. She was Dr. Margolin's beloved when he was in his teenage. Her name of Raizel. Her father was Melekh, the watch maker. Owing to discrimination of social status between a Priest and a watchmaker's families, he could not solemn is his marriage someone else and after some years of marriage, she and her husband both were shot by Nazis in Sencimin, a town in Poland. As Dr. Margolin had not forgotten her, it was her supposed appartition with whom, he had suddenly encountered at the wedding.

**Q. 2. What was Dr. Margolin's attitude towards his profession ?**

**Ans.** Dr. Margolin's attitude towards his profession are as under—

(i) He as a doctor was strict observant to the hippocratic oath or code of conduct devised for the physicians. All physicians on successful completion of their MBBS degree have to take certain oath pertaining to their career as true service given to the ailing community, i.e. patients.

(ii) He was dedicated to his profession as we read, he had an office on West End Avenue and wealthy patients in Newyork USA.

(iii) He was so dedicated and devoted to the service of his patients as hardly any day in each week, he could spare from morning to late night for his wife Gretl even for a few hours.

(iv) He had duly accommodated himself to Anglo-Saxon society in New York so his was a good impression, as a physician there.

(v) He had refused a number of dubious associations that smacked of careerism as his wife Gretl herself took his sense of honour amounted to a mania.

(vi) He maintains his regime and routine strictly so as his good health might ooze an excellent impression on his clients.

**Q. 4. How do the words "Ironing - blonde, faded, middle-aged." Snap a picture of Gretl's body ?**

**Ans.** Poland and Germany both being European countries these fall in the colder belt of the earth. The cheeks particularly of women receive ruby shade during childhood to age after puberty, i.e. in youth. After forty the pigment forming capacity of skin starts reducing hence, these are looked as if red and dark are messed. The term faded also supports the implication of exhausted body and again the term middle aged makes ex-facie what for two other preceding terms generate mystery. A blend of iron and copper in an ungalvanized state mean, a body which has lost its charms.

**Q. 5. What opinion do you form for the writer of this fiction ?**

**Ans.** In my opinion, the author will have halted his mind in unbroken company of ladies sleuth. I form this opinion because his pen quotes the terms "skimpy petticoat", "Calves as muscular as a dancer has, flushed face", "Wryly sizing", "Low-cut gown with blotches covered ball" etc. The description and title of fiction also sound his being intimate to women features, fashion, body-language and would have kept occupied his mind on women and women related issues. He has treasure of contemplation and charming techniques even in trivial matters like roads, any particular tree, setting their relation with natural scences or philosophy etc. This fiction is the glittering essence of his power of contemplation and an apt expression. E.g. "Ironing-blond, faded-middle-aged":

**Q. 6. What conclusion do you make on Dr. Margolin's meeting with Sencimines ?**

**Ans.** This part of fiction reveals as under—

(i) The rustic and urban manners had an eye to see what is good and another bad but full of innocence.

(ii) The tone or aloof attitude between two status i.e. economically strong and haven'ts.

(iii) The bad habits of both cultures.

(iv) The feelings of a contemplative and civilized individual with mass of rustic people.

(v) Amedley of Polish culture of Jewish people and that of Christians of USA in and around New York.

**Q. 8. What is Mania ? How many type maniac generally we see ?**

**Ans.** Mania is a kind of frenzy attitude of mind or better if we say, half-lunatic situation of human mind.

These are mainly : (i) Pyromaniac (ii) Dispomaniac (iii) Megalomaniac (iv) Monomaniac and (v) Kleptomaniac.

The first kind has a strange and morbid passion for fire. He will burn down a house with no slightest sense of malice, but merely because he is fascinated by the flames.

The second kind has a compulsion to drink which we cannot control. His vice is more than a genial habit. It is a psychological disease and he must drink and get drunk whether he what to or not.

The third kind has a conviction that he is Napoleon or Caesar or that he had enormous wealth or even he is God. He is continuously obsessed to delusions of grandeur.

The fourth kind has obsession of one subject or a very limited range of subjects. He hates everything otherwise than his own pet and particular delusion in mind.

The fifth kind has a compulsion to steal. The victim of this mania may be wealthy and the object stolen may be worthless and moreover this menially unbalanced type of person never has any use for the stolen trinkets, nor any plans for their disposal.

**Q. 12. Why according to Dr. Margolin was American Judaism a mess ?**

**Ans.** It was because of intercourse of Jewish and Christian cultures. Jewish who took shelter in America had generally developed their relations with Christian majority in USA and as we read the fiction, we find some Jewish individuals had married with christian brides and Dr. Margolin had also solemnised his marriage with Gretl, a Christian girl from Berlin (Germany). A mix-trend of culture is also apparent from the dresses, ornament, make-up etc., the people wearing in that wedding party.

**Q. 13. Gretl had become almost Jewish in her ways. Explain.**

**Ans.** When we gather opinion/approval of this fact on physical level, we see herein Gretl developing her friendship with Jewish women, visits Hadassah, learns cooking Jewish dishes and she had got constructed a grave/cemetery for her in advance. On mental and emotional levels, she curses upon Nazis who had wiped out and exterminated Jewish in Poland. This she does even after she knows that one of her brother was also a Nazi who succumbed to typhus in a Russian prison camp. She irrespective of being a christian, attends all religious functions arranged by Senciminer community time to time in USA.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR :- Joseph Conrad was a great short story writer of English language. He had beautifully evoked an atmosphere through careful details intermittently had thus, conveyed his sense of inexplainable inner character of life and shifting quality of mind.

SUMMARY :- Tomorrow amplified narrative highlights the pain of a girl perhaps at her marriageable age who had fallen in trap of two old men one her father, the retired shipbuilder and other her landlord Captain Hagherd. Her father had lost his eyesight due to old age but landlord is also blind in search for his son who being inactive and not ready to become a clerk to advocate; had been once expelled by him out of home. However, his absence for long had arouse his affection again for him. These two old people do nothing but exploit the sentiments of that spinster. The frequent longing of that old man with identity explained, had imprinted a picture in her heart and she dreamt of him always and all the day. Her father, another old man also exploits her pretending as if she leaves him away from her even for an hour.

Thus, the one instils a love in her heart for his son, who perhaps has gone forever and the other exploits her services for being her father.



Q. 2. How does Captain Hagberd prepare for Harry's home coming ?

Ans. Captain Hagberd keeps backyard and front side of his house ready to sow seeds of several variety flowers. He digs these small plots continuously but thinks the flowers will be planted when his son Harry arrives home. He has bought seeds, utensils, goods for interior decoration, paint, varnish and brushes of different kind, carpets of latest model and designs, furniture brand new, show-cases and pieces etc. He comes with one or other things bought from market on a regular basis but keeps all these things duly packed and safely stored in boxes and almirahs. He tells Bessie that all these things will be used just when Harry is arrived.

It's a surprise  
Q. 4. What were Harry's reasons for coming to meet old Hagberd ?

Ans. It becomes apparent from Harry's conversation with Bessie that he had come to get some money from old Hagberd under a cheat. He would console him in a false manner that his son would be brought if he could pay a handsome amount in Pounds. He tells that he has some friends to whom he says Gambusinos in London and they all are involved in betraying others by spreading hoax, one or other way. He is in need of fine quid or pond for spree.

Q. 5. Why does Harry's return prove to be a disappointment for Bessie ?

Ans. It is because she could not persuade him in course of a long colloquution ran for hours between them. He was a vagabond and Bessie found him unamenable. He was acquainted with and accustomed to swindles and his return from there was impossible. Bessie had since several years in past, woven a network of living a settled household life with Harry and Captain Hagberd had evoked her passions. She had now understood in clear terms, her destiny as punishment for the acts she would have done in another incarnation or during the life, earlier or previous to that she was living. He under an innocent heart for a while had therefore, drown in the sea of grief - an intense dreary and dreadful. She was disappointed in her heart at large.

**Q. 9.** Which things do reveal that Captain Hagberd was emotionally broken down ?

**Ans.** These are feelings of his loneliness against which he fights at every moment. His activities like, purchase of paint, varnish, interior fixtures and furniture, cement etc., continuous digging of compound front and the rear also, expression of interest on Bessie as his daughter-in-law, still keeping her away even from seeing the goods, he had so purchased and saying her to expel immediately the stranger who was seen chatting with her—all reveal that at the emotional level, he had kept himself attached to feeling as if his son is always within him and acting as the pneuma (vital air) or life-giving energy.

**Q. 10.** Describe the cottages owned by captain Hagberd and their occupants.

**Ans.** These cottages had one wall in common, shared in a life of iron railing dividing their front gardens. There was a wooden wall (partition) between their back gardens. These were yellow brick cottages left unvarnished from a longer period in the past. In backyard, Bessie had grown some simple flowers, not in linear and orderly managed.

## SECTION-II : POETRY (Eng. Elective)

### CHAPTER-01 A LECTURE UPON THE SHADOW

— JOHN DONNE

(1572-1631)

ABOUT THE POET :- JOHN DONNE a renowned composer of metaphysical poems. He has mystic way to explain shadow in its varied forms and in different names. The poet wants to tell that these 'are' departed when the sun of self-realisation shines at the noon.

SUMMARY :- John Donne say that shadows are made by us and these run with us. However just at the noon, shadow are vanished. It's also man who can crush shadows by assuming him always under sun's vigilance. Full pledged surrender is the nature of true love.

The shadows are formed when the man acts upon anything and shadow of that action start chasing him from the moment that act is done. The shadow is as like corporeal love, soon faints or faded. ~~How~~ However, love is immortal and eternal. It neither faints nor meets to death. Indeed according to the poet, love is immortal.

**Q. 9. Can you refer to the nature of true love ?**

**Ans.** Yes, we receive a glimpse of true love from Ramcharit Manas, wherein Goswami Tulsi Das mentions a message from Lord Rama, through Hanuman to his darling Sita.

**Q. 10. Explain the phrase "still diligent lest others see".**

**Ans.** It denotes the primary stage of love or devotion wherein external objects like idols, things of corporeal existence including living lovers. The poet says that such lovers in material or devotees in metaphysical sense are still at the stage of diligence or penance. In other words, these are in learning stage of love or devotion. It's ambivalent state or duality in recognition state. These dwell options, whim-whams, if and but at this state because of being its a perception state.

## LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Q. 1. Explain the corporeal and sublime love ?

Ans. As the poet in his meditative trance, describes, corporeal love is based on age, colour, physical aspect of health, statuses (social, political, financial) and it loses its lustre soon like that of a flower. It is like a good weather friendship or a part of strategy to live on liaison. It never stays after the noon and its percussions are painful more than the pleasure felt in meeting or union. The poet says that the real love has no degrees still invented to exhibit its proportionate intensity because it is atom like undivided, absolute, omniscient and all pervaded. When this is the position, who with his shadow can define, comment or appreciate and assess the true love. It is almighty itself. Bodies are like apparels to love. It's all illumining and according to the shadow; we people create, the rest intact part not polluted or could not gather capacity to pollute; feel and describe accordingly.

Our self-created shadow either dense or light; is actually, our ignorance. It says for corporeal pleasure *i.e.* denser side of shadow hence, gears up ignorance in its varied forms like ego, nuisance, *mens-rea*, offensive instincts, all evocative and these cause denser, the densest. The sublime love, agape or disinterested (Nisakama Prema) is omniscient and all pervaded. It neither begins nor ends, can be tasted but cannot be expressed which types of taste it has. It's beyond time, location and the circumstances or shadows.

Conclusion—Corporeal and sublime love/devotion are couplets like day and night, light and shadow. One is perception while the other is a conceived of non-duality.

## STANZAS FOR COMPREHENSION

### STANZA NO. 1

Read the stanza carefully and answer the questions that follow—

*Stand still and I will read to thee*

*A Lecture, Love, in loves philosophy,*

*These three hours that we have spent,*

*Walking here, Two shadowes went*

*Along with us, which we our selves produc'd;*

*But, now the Sunne is just above our head,*

*We doe those shadowes tread;*

*And to brave clearnesse all things are reduc'd.*

#### Questions :

- (i) Who is I here ?
- (ii) What is a lecture on love ?
- (iii) What is love ?
- (iv) What is love's philosophy ?
- (v) What are shadows here ?

#### Answers :

- (i) It is the poet himself or his Self at meditative state of mind.
- (ii) A true explanation with example of the love.
- (iii) Love is immortal and absolute. Here are no options, shadows or duality/ambivalence. It is noon like.
- (iv) It is corporeal attachment or affection.

### STANZA NO. 3

Read the stanza carefully and answer the questions that follow—

*Except our loves at this noone stay,  
We shall new shadowes make the other way.  
As the first were made to blinde  
Others; these which come behinde  
Will work-upon our selves, and blind our eyes.*

Questions :

- (i) What state of love does imply noon stay ?
- (ii) What do you understand by the words "new shadows" here ?
- (iii) Do you think shadows blind a man ?
- (iv) When do the shadows work upon us ?

Answers :

- (i) It's an absolute state of love.
- (ii) New shadows are meant by the stages of change post-prime i.e. at adult age in terms of corporeal affection generally, creating an illusion of its being love.
- (iii) Yes, the shadows of adolescence, teen age and youth mostly or at least oftenly misdirect the individuals and they are astrayed.
- (iv) It happens just after the youth is declined. Whatever the acts are done in the past i.e. from childhood upto youth start paying with their results proportionately. In terms of corporeal age, individuals loss their eye sight when they become old.



### STANZA NO. 5

✓ Read the stanza carefully and answer the questions that follow—

*Love is a growing, or full constant light;  
And his first minute, after noone, is night.*

#### Questions :

- (i) *How is love like a full constant light ?*
- (ii) *What does "his" imply here ?*
- (iii) *What is the first minute after noon in respect of eternal love ?*

#### Answers :

(i) True love acts like a torch bearer for lovers. It is not confined to mere carnal love that generally is fainted with the loss of youth.

(ii) It's love, the eternal and immortal love.

(iii) It's deluge or the catastrophe in which entire creation is met to an end. This is because, there is dark everywhere after the noon of love viz. growth of love is unlimited. It's noon or complete development or climax is never seen.