

Twenty minutes with Mrs. Oakentubb

Q1. Explain the importance of the label on Mrs.Oakentubb's suitcase. Why does she hide it?

Ans. The suitcase of the *Lady* has a great importance as it has the name of the lady. If the man had read the name, he would have known that the lady was *Mrs. Judy Oakentubb*. So, she hides the label under the flap.

Q2. At what point in the play do we become certain that the man knows that the woman in the waiting room is Mrs.Oakentubb? When, in fact do you think he discovered her identity?

Ans. From the very beginning of the drama, the behavior of the man tells that he had recognized her and when porter informs them that train is a bit late and the man says, "It's just the amount of time I need for killing you". This is the point at which we become certain that the man has known the Lady.

Q3. When is the audience likely to begin to suspect that she might be Mrs.Oakentubb?

Ans. The audience likely to begin to suspect that she might be Mrs.Oakentubb when she hides the label under the flap.

Q4. What motive has the man for murdering her?

Ans. The man has the motive for murdering her that he wants to take revenge of her innocent child and wife.

Q5. Briefly describe the chief moments of tension and what follows after each one?

Ans. There are three moment of tension in the play which create suspense that are,

First, when He tells her about the murder of her wife and child, and his intention of taking revenge.

When He takes out his revolver and points at her saying that he is going to kill her.

When He comes back and shoots her.

Q6. Why, in your opinion, does the author make the porter a humorous character?

Ans. The Author makes the Porter a humorous character so that he can release the tension and suspense of the drama.

Q8. Write a brief character sketch of Mrs. Oakentubb.

Ans. She is the important character of the play. She is a beautiful woman. She is bad in character as she attends the cocktail parties. She is a wife of a prosperous salesman. She is fond of drink and betting and she bets for five pounds and drives the car at the speed of fifty miles an hour. Thus she kills two innocent pedestrians. She is a clever woman. When she knows that He has intended to kill her she tries to change his mind. She is an important character of the play.

Q9. Write a brief character sketch of Porter.

Ans. Porter is a minor character of the play. This is a humorous character of the play and this is the need of the play. He is kind-hearted and feels joy in providing comforts to the passengers. He comes in the play to relieve the tension of the drama.

Q10. Why did Mrs. Oakentubb had to stay in the waiting room of the railway station?

Ans. Mrs. Oakentubb had to stay in the waiting room of the railway station because the train in which she had to go Stainthorpe was twenty minutes late.

2# REFLECTIONS ON THE RE-AWAKENING EAST

Q.1: why is it insular for European historians to term the centuries after the fall of the Roman Empire 'The Dark Ages'?

Ans. After the fall of Roman Empire the Muslim conquered a very large part of the world. At the same time, the Chinese also founded a great empire and civilization. During this period, science, philosophy, poetry and arts made a great progress in China and the Muslim world. Europeans call this period "The Dark Ages" but it was dark only in Christian Europe, because Spain which was Muslim had a brilliant culture.

Q. 2: On what grounds dose the author argue that communism is the most modern and virulent form of the Western Imperialism?

Ans. Russell argues that communism is the most modern and virulent form of Western imperialism because its philosophy is German and its regime is imposed by military force. It has no regard for poetry, music, arts, love and simple joys of life.

Q. 3: To what cause does the author attribute the power of England in the early Nineteenth Century and the power of the United States and Russia today?

Ans. According to the author, the power of England in the early Nineteenth Century was and the Power of the United States and Russia today is due to their monopoly in machine production.

Q. 4: Why does the author consider it useless to resist industrialization?

Ans. The author considers it useless to resist industrialization because the modern civilization is based upon science and machinery which is a source of power. Those who are not industrially advanced, find it difficult to preserve their independence.

Q. 5: Does the author welcome cultural uniformity or not? Who does he justify his attitude?

Ans. No, Bertrand Russell does not welcome cultural uniformity in any part of the world. He justifies his attitude by saying that no great civilization has ever been cosmopolitan. It means that international culture divorced from local characteristics; the feeling of belonging to the world rather than to any particular country: Moreover, the customs, traditions and good qualities of local culture will lose their importance and existence. Russell advises the Asian countries to fight for their own block without speaking about cultural uniformity.

Q.6: How is traditional culture threatened in an age dominated by science and machinery?

Ans. Traditional culture consists of poetry, music, art, love and simple joys of life. These things are forgotten because the science and machinery have mechanized the human life.

Q. 7: What reasons does the author give for his opinion that the nations of Asia will not find it hard to keep their independence?

Ans. In the opinion of the author the nations of Asia will not find it hard to keep their independence because the world is divided into two hostile camps i.e. the U.S.A. and Russia. They are busy with their own tussle for power. They have no time to interfere with the Asian nations.

Q. 8: What, in the author's view, has been the most serious flaw in the character of the West over the last few centuries?

Ans. The most serious flaw in the character of the West is that they loved power. They ruled over the weaker nations.

Q. 9: What parallels may be drawn between the decline of the power of Europe at the end of the Roman Empire and the decline in the power of Europe since 1914?

Ans. At the time of the end of the Roman Empire, wars between German and Roman had weakened Europe so much that leadership in power had passed to the East.

Q.10: What, in the author's opinion, should Asian countries, accept from the West and what should they reject?

Ans. Asian countries should accept from the West the spirit of scientific research and should reject their desire for domination and exploitation.