

Chapter-1

ATTILA

Summary

In Attila by R.K. Narayan we have the theme of trust, faith, loyalty, persuasion and luck. There was a family who was planning to purchase a dog to protect their house from all sort of strangers. A puppy was brought to the family who was named Attila after the farocious conqueror 'The scourge of Europe' frequently known as 'Attila the Hun'.



The family members were satisfied with the name of Attila because they named the dog with the mood of optimism (belief that good things will happen).

But unfortunately , Attila could not be trusted as a guard dog. He was too friendly in his manner allowing anybody to enter the property he was supposed to be protecting. He was pampered by a small smile of the visitors.



However it is noticeable that one member of the family does always defend Attila while everybody else can only see the negative in Attila. It is the young defenders faith in Attila which ensures that he remains with the family despite the fact that he is in reality not a guard dog at all.

One day a thief whose name was Ranga entered the house. He was actually a gang coolie. He came and started stealing the jewelry and money.



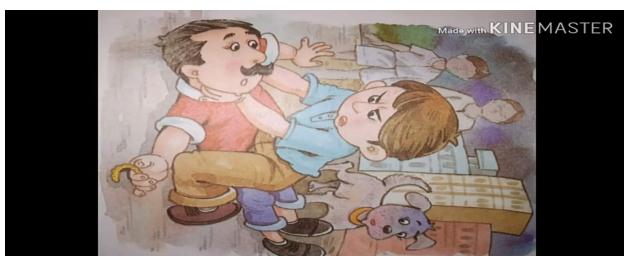
Attila saw that the thief had entered but he was sitting calmly and didn't object .Attila was also easily persuaded when Ranga was robbing the house. Rather than doing anything constructive Attila ended up following Ranga home to his house and becoming his friend. It does not enter Attila's mind that his own family's house has been robbed and that it was his role to defend the property and family from intrusion.

It is also interesting that Attila forces himself completely on Ranga. Whether he is working or at home Attila is constantly by Ranga's side. Much to Ranga's annoyance. Ranga has no option but to allow Attila remain by his side. There is nothing he can do when it comes to the loyalty that Attila shows him.

The end of the story is also interesting as Narayan may be introducing an element of luck. The young defender saw Attila in the streets and only by sheer chance he realised that Ranga was the thief who stole the jewellery from his house. He shouted and when he shouted, Ranga understood that he is being called so he started running. Now watching Ranga move even Attila started chasing him because he didn't want to be deserted from Ranga. Being a fast running dog he came in front of Ranga and then both of them were collided and fell on the road.



The boy of the family caught him and handed over to the police.



Rather than seeing events as being fortunate the young defender believed that Attila had been following Ranga all the time. Considering Attila to be a detective. Attila was rewarded and honoured for his achievement even though it was not the case. Attila never wanted Ranga to be caught, in fact, he had never understood that Ranga might have done something wrong. The dog was too innocent for his own good. But, fortune helped him anyhow to regain his place in the family.

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