

What is a confession?

- Defined as a voluntary statement made by a person charged with the commission of a crime communicated to another person, wherein s/he acknowledges to be guilty of the offense charged.
- (Discloses the circumstances of the act or the share and participation s/he had in it.)



16. PURGATORY

-W.B. Yeats

THEME:

W. B. Yeats "Purgatory" deals on the theme of crime and confession. He presents the predicament of a family; the family whose history is pathetic; present and future is also similar to the past. He shows the spirit suffering because of the wrong deeds of the past. Moreover, he depicts what a person does to relieve the soul from purgatory.

SUMMARY:

One moonlight night, the boy and his father walk on; they are near a ruined house. Pointing towards the house, the old man describes the past of it. The house used to be occupied by his mother and her husband. The mother of the old man had married with the groom of the stable as soon as she met him. The man later turned out to be a drunkard and gambler. Due to drinking and gambling he emptied everything she had. The mother died during giving birth to him. The father continued his misdeed, which at last resulted into the complete destruction of house. Because of fear-the fear of his son becoming greater than him, he didn't send him to school. When he was sixteen, his father burnt down the house. This situation creates anger in the boy. As a result the old man got killed with a knife. The boy then became a peddler. The old man tells his bastard son that the night is the anniversary of mother's wedding. As he finishes telling his son about the past, a shadow appears to which the man can only see. A little later her husband also appears, and they both proceed towards the room. The old man objects to the way they go inside. After the incident is over the boy talks about property he has acquired. The bastard son demands for his share in property of his father, which is denied by him. It arises anger in him. As a result he takes a money bag from his father. A quarrel starts between them; the boy gets killed at last with the knife of the old man. The old man, after it, addresses his mother and claims that he has ended the consequences. He hoped that the soul of mother would be purified whereas the policeman continued talking with a smiling face. The boy, at the same time, heard a sound coming from beneath. He desired to reduce the loudness of the sound. For this purpose, he spoke louder; though it didn't do any good. He felt the sound growing; he felt the policemen's smile as the smile of mockery. It became unbearable for him to keep the reality secret. He thought it better to confess than to hide. Eventually he confessed the crime.

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS:

1. What is the theme of the play, Purgatory?
2. Why did the old man kill his father and son?
3. Draw the character sketch of the old man?

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. 2075 GIE Q. NO. 2D

What happens to the souls of dead ones in purgatory according to W.B. Yeats ? (Purgatory) [3]

- 'Purgatory' presents a concept of three different worlds. W. B. Yeats, an Irish dramatist and poet, centers this play on these three worlds. The idea is the biblical idea of the universe. Yeats believes that the dead souls enter the world of purgatory from hell (we call it earth) in order to be purified. The souls in purgatory need to be washed and clinched before they enter heaven. If the souls are not purged or washed, they return back to hell. They suffer in hell because of their transgression. The consequence of the transgression is to animate the dead night in hell not one time but many times. Thus, the souls are there to be tested in purgatory they are free from their sins, they go to hear either they go to heaven or hell will be decided only after the souls get entered in the world of purgatory.

2. 2075 SET A Q. NO. 2C

What is the old man's motive in murdering the boy? [3]

- The Old Man of the play "Purgatory" kills his end the cycle of violence and sin. He also say has killed his son because he wants to send his mother's soul to heaven. W.B. Yeats brilliantly forwarding the idea of family predicament in the "Purgatory", introduces the family whose history is pathetic. The playwright thinks this will repeat in the present and future too. The old man, thus, thinks of ending the cyclic nature of family sins. His sole motive in murdering the boy is to make a perpetual end of such a family. He is convinced that his son will do the same thing as his grandmother and father have done. It is impossible to escape the curse of the family. By killing him, the old man wants to redeem the family from its curse. Next, the old man knows that his mother's soul is fluttering in hell, in the burnt house. In the play, spirits suffer because of their transgressions. He wants to release her soul from hell. The old man thinks that the killing of his father and his son can help his mother. Thus, he kills his son. In nutshell, the old man's motive of killing his own son is to end the cycle of sin and

crime, on the one hand and his mother's soul in heaven on the other; he was the end of the family whose sins pass from one generation to another.

3. 2075 SET B Q. NO. 2A

Why does the old man kill his son? [3]

- Please refer to 2075 SET A Q. NO. 2A

4. 2074 PARTIAL D Q.NO.2C

What is the old man's motive in murdering the Boy? [3]

- Please refer to 2075 SET A Q. NO. 2C

5. 2073 SUPP Q. NO. 2E

What is the Old Man's motive in murdering the Boy? [3]

- Please refer to 2075 SET A Q. NO. 2C

6. 2073 SET C Q. NO. 2B

What were the reasons which led the old man to kill the Boy? [3]

- The Old Man of the Play "Purgatory" kills the Boy, his own son. There are some circumstances which made the Old Man kill the boy. The greatest circumstance is the soul of his mother that appeared in the ruined house. He was haunted by the dead mother's spirit all the time. As an uneducated man he gave his own logic for it. He thought that his mother did not go to heaven because of his father and his descendants. He thought her sin of marrying his father and bearing children from his would be washed and her soul would release from purgatory by finishing the family line. He, thus, kills his own son, The BOY. Another circumstance is their fight for money. They struggle for money which drops on the ground and scatters. When the boy looks at the ghost of his grandfather and closes his eyes, the Old Man kills his son. The third circumstance can be his baster identity. He is the son of a tinker's daughter who threw him in a ditch. The Old Man might not have been happy with the birth of the boy. These three circumstances forced the Old Man to kill the boy.

7. 2073 PARTIAL A Q. NO. 2A

Why did the old man punish the boy?

- Please refer to 2075 SET A Q. NO. 2B

8. 2073 PARTIAL W Q. NO. 2B

How does the old man break the cycle of violence? [3]

- The play Purgatory written by W. B. Yeats is about the cyclic nature of violence. The Old Man of the play struggles to end the cycle of violence throughout the play. He thinks unless and until the generation of his family exists the violence will go on repeating. To break the cycle violence of his family he kills his father and even his own son. When he sees the dead souls of his mother and father in the house, he thinks of releasing them from the house which he thinks will be possible by making the end of the family. That he can do by killing his own son. He thinks his son will pollute the woman and destroy her imagination. By killing his father and son he breaks the cycle of violence in the play.

9. 2072 SUPP Q. NO. 2A

Why does the old man murder the boy? [3]

- Please refer to 2075 SET A Q. NO. 2C

10. 2072 SET C Q. NO. 2A

What were the circumstances which made the Old Man kill the boy?

- Please refer to 2073 SET C Q. NO. 2B

11. 2072 SET D Q. NO. 2A

What is the motive of the Old Man in killing the BOY? [3]

- Please refer to 2075 SET A Q. NO. 2C

12. 2071 SUPP Q. NO. 12E

Discuss the kind of relationship between father and son in the play 'Purgatory'. [3]

- Father, the old man, and the son have a strange type of relation. The play's only two interacting characters have their own ideologies. Unlike traditional father and son, they share no emotional and familiar affinities. From the beginning, the son goes on reacting against his father. He lacks respect

and love for his father. On the other hand, the father doesn't display his parental behavior. He condemns himself and his son because they are his father's offspring. He has not given any sort of education to his son because the son is a bastard. The conflict deepens at a time when the old man, the boy's father, reveals how he has killed his own father. The boy, the son, expresses his desire to kill the old man, his father. They struggle for money. They fight. The old man kills his own son. This reflects that they don't have any type of familial/parental relations. They have cold relations. The coldness of their relationship begins to ponder when the old man visualizes his killed father and dead mother in the house. The father is preoccupied with the idea that he has to finish/ end the generation.

13. 2071 SET C Q. NO. 2A

What does the Old Man kill the boy? [3]

- Please refer to 2075 SET A Q. NO. 2D

14. 2071 PARTIAL SET B Q. NO. 12 D.

Why did the old man kill his son? [3]

- Please refer to 2075 SET A Q. NO. 2C

15. 2070 SET D Q. NO 12 D

Discuss the kind of relationship between father and son in the play "Purgatory". [3]

- Please refer to 2071 SUPP Q. NO. 12E

16. 2069 Q. NO. 12D

What is the old man's motive in murdering the Boy? Elaborate. [3]

- Please refer to 2075 SET A Q. NO. 2C

17. 2069 PARTIAL Q. NO. 12D

What is the old man's motive in murdering the Boy? [3]

- Please refer to 2075 SET A Q. NO. 2C

18. 2067 Q. NO. 121

What is the Old Man's motive in murdering the Boy? [3]

- Please refer to 2075 SET A Q. NO. 2C

19. 2066 (PARTIAL) Q. NO. 12C

Explain how "Purgatory" explores the relation of human life to supernatural forces. [3]

- "Purgatory", a poetic play written by Irish poet and dramatist W.B. Yeats explores the relations between human and supernatural forces. W.B. Yeats says, after the opening performance of the play, "In play the spirit suffers because of its share in the destruction of an honored house." This statement also makes it clear that the play tries to show the relation of human beings to the supernatural forces. The old man's mother is dead. He believes people, who here represent supernatural forces, suffer because of their transgression. In the play, the dead ones appear in the form of spirit. At their presence, the living ones are seen functioning. The arrival of true spirit in the house instigates them to work further. The old man works to kill his own son when he sees his mother's soul still hovering round in the hell. The physical body dies, but the spirit roams around in the habitable place if not

cleansed. The living ones work to wash out their sins. Thus, though dead, the supernatural forces/spirits of the dead ones keep contact with the living ones and the living ones work to help them in sending heaven. This spiritual part of life is shown in the play by Yeats. He forwards the idea of 'after life in the play. He means to say that the physical body is like the worn out clothes which need to be changed. By saying so, he wants to explore the relation of humans with supernatural forces. In the play, the old man's father and mother are seen in the burnt house even after their death and involve in an intense nonverbal communication. It is because of their arrival, the old man kills his son. He thinks that they want his help, a living one. But showing this interaction between the supernatural forces and the living ones, the playwright explores the relation of human life to supernatural forces.

20. 2058 Q. NO. 3D

Why did the Old Man kill his own son? [3]

➤ Please refer to **2075 SET A Q. NO. 2C**

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

21. 2071 SET D Q. NO. 13 B

Why did the old man kill his own son and father? Explain how this drama is connected with religious belief. [10]

- The Old Man of the play "Purgatory" kills his son and his father to end the cycle of violence and sin. He also says that he has killed his father and son because he wants to send his mother's soul to heaven. W.B. Yeats brilliantly forwarding the idea of family predicament in the play "Purgatory", introduces the family whose history/past is pathetic. The playwright thinks repeat in the present and future too. Thus, thinks of ending the cyclic nature of fear. His sole motive in murdering the boy is to perpetuate the end of such a family. He was killed because he burnt down the historic house property. He squandered his mother's pride and destroyed her fancy. On the other hand convinced that his son will do the same thing as his grandmother and father have done. It is impossible to escape the curse of the family. By killing him the man wants to redeem the family from its curse and the old man knows that his mother's soul is fluttering in hell, in the burnt house. In the play, spirits suffer because of their transgressions. He wants to release her soul from hell. The old man thinks that the killing of his father and his son can help his mother. Thus, he kills his son. In nutshell, the old man's motive of killing his own father and son is to end the cycle of sin and crime, on the one hand and send his mother's soul in heaven on the other; he wants the end of the family whose sins pass from one generation to another. Such a murder has a religious connection. The play explains a religious belief that a sinner doesn't get entry to heaven. The soul after death gets trapped in the purgatory because such souls are not cleansed before they go to heaven. From the world of purgatory, they return back to the habitable places for they need the help of the living ones. Thus, the sinners do not only suffer; they leave a great responsibility to the surviving ones. Their transgression has the consequences by which they suffer. Unless the sins are washed they couldn't go to heaven. In the play, the Old Man's father and mother commit a sin. His father committed a sin by setting fire in a historical house and the mother did a sin by marrying and begetting the children from the groom. As a result, their souls hang in the world of purgatory. The Man sees his mother in the burnt house and hoof beats. Thus, they are seen as sins. But another part of the reality is that one can't live a free life. They haunt the living again and again. The Old Man in the play struggles to be free from their sins and also release hell. For that he kills his son and father too, the religious belief of after life is implicated by the playwright here. W. B. Yeats means the physical body is like the worn out clothes which are needed to be changed.

22. 2064 Q. NO. 13 B

"We are always punished for our sins." Elaborate statement [10]

- W. B. Yeats Play, "Purgatory" makes a statement that we are always punished for our sins. The play is written with his Christian mindset. The Bible says that every sinner bears the punishment- no matter if he confesses the crime. Even after confession and realization of the crime they are asked to tell the story of their wrong doings. In the play too the Old Man commits the crime and realizes that he has killed his father and son for no reason. Then, he goes to a distance place to retell his story of murder. Thus, the play makes a spiritual claim that we are always punished for our sins. The play also explains that a sinner doesn't get entry to heaven. The soul after death gets trapped in purgatory because such souls are not cleansed before they go to heaven. From the world of purgatory, they return back to the habitable places for they need the help of the living ones. Thus, the sinners do not only suffer; they leave a great responsibility to the surviving ones. Their transgression has the consequences by which they suffer. Unless the sins were washed they couldn't go to heaven. In the play the old Man's father and mother commit a sin. His Father committed a sin by setting fire in a historical house and the mother did a sin by marrying and begetting the children from the groom. As a result their souls hang in the world of purgatory. The Old Man sees his mother in the burnt house and hears hoof beats. Thus, they are seen punished for their sins. But another part of the reality is that the living ones can't live a free life. They haunt the living ones again and again. The Old Man in the play struggles to be free from their sins and also release them from hell. For that he kills his son and father too. But the fact is that this belief is the part of conviction so circulated in our society from long ago. The belief has a positive side. This has indeed created a check and balance in the society by preventing the people from committing the crime and sins. Convinced that they will be punished for the sins, people are less likely to do the crimes. This religious belief has to some extent made this world a better place to live in. Otherwise, there would be much anarchy and disorder in the world. In every community, whether Christians or Muslims, or Hindu or Buddhists, the belief has the greater space. Whatever, the god never likes his children involved in criminal activities. He punishes us for our sins and rewards our good deeds. Thus, to go to heaven and get the love of the god we must check ourselves from the sins. Peace and happiness embrace both the living and the dead if they do something holy and humane. The belief "we are punished for our sins" needs a greater circulation. The Play, "Purgatory". also makes a similar point. The Old Man, his father, and mother are the sinners who are punished for their sins.

23. 2063 Q. NO. 13 A

Sketch the character of An Old Man. [10]

An Old Man

- The Old Man in the play, "Purgatory", is the protagonist. Guided by the sense of revenge and responsibility, the Old Man kills his father as well as his son. In this sense, he looks like a criminal and a murderer. But the murder he has committed is of different nature. He neither kills someone for the monetary benefit nor are the murdered ones his enemies. They are none other than his father and son. Thus, it appears to the audiences that he is destined to kill his own family members. As a mouthpiece of Yeats, The Old Man persuades his audiences that some sinners and their sins are the parts of the family curse which they can never escape even if they wish to do so. The old man of the play is pushed again and again by the souls of purgatory for the murder. The Old Man is a very strange sort of character who is haunted by his father and mother's soul. He is a character who seems to be the victim of his family curse. Unlike his father, the Old Man appears to be the man of objectives. Neither he has an interest in the drinks like his father, nor does he want to ruin the property. But the Old Man never can forget and forgive his father and mother's crime. And for every crime he has committed, he thinks his parents are responsible. He hates himself for being his father's son and is convinced that he would do nothing better than his father. Thus, this man is quite judgmental and the base of his judgment is his spiritual mind set. The Old Man is the son of a drunkard groom and aristocratic mother. His drunken father doesn't educate him yet gets other's sympathies. He has lost his mother on his birth and kills his father in the burning house. By profession he is a butler and has had a relationship with Tinker's daughter. He has a bastard son whom he kills later on thinking that his mother would go to heaven. He is a man of courage too. When his father's friends wanted to put him on a trial he tackled it. Moreover, for his mother's sake he kills his father and son. He is a character of multi-personalities, thus dynamic. He has self-evaluative sort of nature too. So whatever he does, he loathes it. He reproaches himself for every activity. When he kills his father and son, admits his guilt and bears every responsibility to. Again, as a man of spiritual and religious thoughts, he involves in murder to release his mother's soul from purgatory and when he completes his killings he repents and admits that "twice a murderer but all for nothing. To sum up, he is a man of a religious thought appears that he is living a life for others. The Old Man appears to be the man of wit and logic. He tends to say that a sin must be punished. Caught between his love to his mother and hatred to his father, he makes a decision on time to kill his father and son. Though his action of murder is an act of condemn, he gets our sympathy when he begs god's help to send his mother in heaven and goes to a distanced place to tell his stories of murder.

PARBIN KANDEL