

The Leopard

-- Ruskin Bond

Vocabulary
1) a deep narrow valley with steep sides – ravine
2) to become visible – emerge
3) a nature reserve – sanctuary
4) a long narrow hilltop – ridge
5) deep red color – crimson
6) an edge or border – verge
7) small smooth stones – pebbled
8) an excess of production or supply – surplus
9) a songbird with a forked tail – forkedtail
10) a large rock – boulder
11) a layer of feathers that cover a bird – plumage
12) long tailed Asian monkeys – langurs
13) purposeful clearing of forested land – deforestation
14) preparing for a particular purpose, occasion – groomed
15) talking rapidly – chattering
16) making a low deep sound – grunting
17) a search to find something – quest
18) the death of the last individual of a species – extinction
19) a place of safety – haven
20) the power or right of controlling – dominion
21) filled with sudden surprise – astonished

22) surrounding area – vicinity
23) a small narrow river – stream
24) a rushing and violent stream of water – torrent
25) recreational activity of going on long walks in wilderness – tramping
26) leaves of a plant – foliage
27) large quantity of something – profusion
28) dead body of an animal – carcass
29) persons, animals or plants that live in a particular place – denizens
30) lacking vegetation – bleak
31) frequently visited by ghosts – haunted
32) dangerously high or steep – precipitous
33) an area of high level ground – plateau
34) remains of a place, building or city – ruins
35) state of complete emptiness or destruction – desolation
36) an unpleasant smell – odour
37) giving a gift – bestowing
38) a place where wild animals live or sleep – lair
39) connected with the cat family – feline
MCQs
1. The ravine was <u>deep</u> .
2. It was early April and the <u>wild roses</u> were flowering.
3. When did the author hear the cry of a barking deer?
Ans. every morning and sometimes during the day
4. To give himself courage when faced against a leopard, what did the

author do?
Ans. He clapped his hands
5. In May and June, the hills were <u>brown and dry.</u>
6. Who visited the stream regularly?
Ans. The forktail
7. The rocks were sharp and <u>slippery.</u>
8. Why did the author want to find the bird's home?
Ans. He was curious
9. During the monsoon, the stream became a <u>rushing torrent.</u>
10. When did the author find the shikaris?
Ans. Climbing uphill
11. <u>Pari Tibba</u> is called Hill of Fairies.
Q-1 Why did the author visit the ravines?
Ans. The author is a great lover of nature. He often visits the ravine to get a feel of the nature and wild life. He never intended to harm the nature.
Q-2 Make a list of the wildlife the author sees in the woods.
Ans. The author encounters a variety of flora and fauna in the woods.
During his visit to the woods, he comes across oak and maple trees. He also sees many flowering plants Himalayan rhododendron, raspberries, bamboo, primroses, etc. Moreover, he also sees pheasant, forktails, langurs, barking deer, red fox and also a leopard.
Q-3 Make a list of plants the author encounters in the forest.
Ans. The author encounters a variety of flora and fauna in the woods.
During his visit to the woods, he comes across oak and maple trees. He

also sees many flowering plants Himalayan rhododendron, raspberries, bamboo, primroses etc.
Q-4 How did the author recognize the forktail?
Ans. The author recognized the forktail by the white 'Cross of St Andrew' on its back.
Q-5 What was the danger the langurs were trying the author to warn against?
Or
"The langurs were trying to warn me of some hidden danger." How did the langurs behave? What was the hidden danger?
Ans. The langurs were making loud chattering sound in the trees. Their behaviour was strange. They were trying to warn the author against the leopard.
6. "The birds and animals knew their trust had been violated." What does this mean in the story?
Ans. The forest is the home of the wild animals and birds. When the hunters started killing animals and birds, it destroyed the peace of their home and the trust which they put on human beings.
7. Why were the shikaris roaming in the forest?
Ans. The shikaris were roaming in the forest in search of wild animals like Leopard so that they can kill it and sell its skin in the black market.
8. 'But did the leopard trusting one man make mistake trusting other? What does the narrator mean by this? What mistake could the leopard have made?

Ans. The author loved nature. He never wanted to harm the wild animals and birds. He also felt secure in the presence of leopard and the leopard ,too, never tried to attack him. But when the leopard was shot down by the shikaris he doubted whether the wild animals would ever trust human beings in future. By trusting the author, the leopard has made mistake of trusting human beings.

9. 'There was room in the world for a mountain lion and me.' Why did these words echo in the narrator's mind?

Ans. Due to the activities of the hunters, the animals started fleeing away from the forest. Hence, the author feels that humans and animals should respect each other's space so that both can live peacefully.

10. Why had the ravine become a little haven for wildlife?

Ans. The ravine was deep and remained in shadow most of the day. There was hardly any human movement. Therefore, it became a little haven for wildlife.

11. Why were the birds and animals not disturbed by the presence of the author in the forest?

Ans. The birds and animals became familiar with the author's face. They also knew that the author did not want to harm them. Therefore, they were not disturbed by his presence in the forest.

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AFTER TWENTY YEARS

□ O. HENRY

The Policeman on the beat moved up the avenue impressively. The impressiveness was habitual and not for show, for spectators were few. The time was barely 10 o'clock at night, but chilly gusts of wind with a taste of rain in them had well nigh depeopled the streets.

Trying doors as he went, twirling his club with many intricate and artful movements, turning now and then to cast his watchful eye down the pacific thoroughfare, the officer, with his stalwart form and slight swagger, made a fine picture of a guardian of the peace. The vicinity was one that kept early hours. Now and then you might see the lights of a cigar store or of an all-night lunch counter; but the majority of the doors belonged to business places that had long since been closed.

When about midway of a certain block the policeman suddenly slowed his walk. In the doorway of a darkened hardware store a man leaned, with an unlighted cigar in his mouth. As the policeman walked up to him the man spoke up quickly.

"It's all right, officer," he said, reassuringly. "I'm just waiting for a friend. It's an appointment made twenty years ago. Sounds a little funny to you, doesn't it? Well, I'll explain if you'd like to make certain it's all right. About that long ago there used to be a restaurant where this store stands—'Big Joe' Brady's restaurant."

"Until five years ago," said the policeman. "It was torn down then."

The man in the doorway struck a match and lit his cigar. The light showed a pale, square-jawed face with keen eyes, and a little white scar near his right eyebrow. His scarfpin was a large diamond, oddly set.

"Twenty years ago tonight," said the man. "I dined here at 'Big Joe, Brady's with Jimmy Wells, my best chum, and the finest chap in the world. He and I were raised here in New York, just like two brothers, together. I was eighteen and Jimmy was twenty. The next morning I was to start for the West to make my fortune. You couldn't have dragged Jimmy out of New York; he thought it was the only place on earth. Well, we agreed that night that we would meet here again exactly twenty years from the date and time, no matter what our conditions might be or from what distance we might have to come. We figured that in twenty years each of us ought to have our destiny worked out and our fortunes made, whatever they were going to be."

"It sounds pretty interesting," said the policeman. "Rather a long time between meets, though, it seems to me. Haven't you heard from your friend since you left?"

"Well, yes, for a time we corresponded," said the other. "But after a year or two we lost track of each other. You see, the West is a pretty big proposition, and I kept hustling around over it pretty lively. But I know Jimmy will meet me here if he's alive, for he always was the truest, staunchest old chap in the world. He'll never forget. I came a thousand miles to stand in this door tonight, and it's worth it if my old partner turns up."

The waiting man pulled out a handsome watch, the lids of it set with small diamonds.

"Three minutes to ten," he announced. "It was exactly ten o'clock when we parted here at the restaurant door,"

"Did pretty well out West, didn't you?" asked the policeman.

"You bet! I hope Jimmy has done half as well. He was a kind of plodder, though, good fellow as he was. I've had to compete with some of the sharpest wits. A man gets in a groove in New York. It takes the West to put a razor-edge on him."

The policeman twirled his club and took a step or two.

"I'll be on my way. Hope your friend comes around all right. Going to call time on him sharp?"

"I should say not!" said the other. "I'll give him half an hour at least. If Jimmy is alive on earth he'll be here by that time. So long, officer."

"Good night, sir," said the policeman, passing on along his beat, trying doors as he went.

There was now a fine, cold drizzle falling, and the wind had risen from its uncertain puffs into a steady blow. The few foot passengers astir in that quarter hurried dismally and silently along with coat collars turned high and pocketed hands. And in the door of the hardware store the man who had come a thousand miles to fill an appointment, uncertain almost to absurdity, with the friend of his youth, smoked his cigar and waited.

About twenty minutes he waited, and then a tall man in a long overcoat, with collar turned up to his ears, hurried across from the opposite side of the street. He went directly to the waiting man.

"Is that you, Bob?" he asked, doubtfully.

"Is that you, Jimmy Wells?" cried the man in the door.

"Bless my heart!" exclaimed the new arrival, grasping both the other's hands with his own. "It's Bob, sure as fate. I was certain I'd find you here if you were still in existence. Well, well, well!—twenty years is a long time. The old restaurant's gone, Bob; I wish it had lasted, so we could have had another dinner there. How has the West treated you, old man?"

"Bully; it has given me everything I asked it for. You've

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changed lots, Jimmy. I never thought you were so tall by two or three inches."

"Oh, I grew a bit after I was twenty."

"Doing well in New York, Jimmy?"

"Moderately. I have a position in one of the city departments. Come on, Bob; we'll go around to a place I know of, and have a good long talk about old times."

The two men started up the street, arm in arm. The man from the West, his egotism enlarged by success, was beginning to outline the history of his career. The other, submerged in his overcoat, listened with interest.

At the corner stood a drug store, brilliant with electric lights. When they came into this glare each of them turned simultaneously to gaze upon the other's face.

The man from the West stopped suddenly and released his arm.

"You're not Jimmy Wells," he snapped. "Twenty years is a long time, but not long enough to change a man's nose from a Roman to a pug."

"It sometimes changes a good man into a bad one," said the tall man. "You've been under arrest for ten minutes, 'Silky' Bob. Chicago thinks you may have dropped over our way and wires us she wants to have a chat with you. Going quietly, are you? That's sensible. Now, before we go on to the station here's a note I was asked to hand you. You may read it here at the window. It's from Patrolman Wells."

The man from the West unfolded the little piece of paper handed him. His hand was steady when he began to read, but it trembled a little by the time he had finished. The note was rather short:

Bob: I was at the appointed place on time. When you struck the match to light your cigar I saw it was the face of the man wanted in Chicago. Somehow I couldn't do it myself, so I went around and got a plain-clothes man to do the job.

"JIMMY"

AFTER TWENTY YEARS

O. HENRY'S real name was William Sydney Porter. He was born in Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1862. He went to Texas at the age of twenty and drifted from one job to another till he became a teller in a bank. He quit this job to begin newspaper work but later started writing stories under the pseudonym O. Henry. He started living in New York, where he died in 1910. He specialised in the short story that ends with a completely unexpected surprise.

"After Twenty Years" is a story of a meeting between two friends according to the promise they made twenty years ago. They wish to tell each other of what befell them in the intervening years. The end of the story brings surprise.

Comprehension

- I. Twenty years after they make the promise the two friends meet at the appointed place and time.
 - (a) Do the men recognise each other? If the patrolman recognised Bob, why did he not say it?
 - (b) When they separated twenty years ago to make their destiny, what were their feelings for each other?
 - (c) Have their feelings changed in the long years?
- II. The patrolman goes away and a tall man, declaring himself to be Jimmy Wells, greets the man from the west. At the drug store, each of them turns to gaze upon the other's face.
 - (a) What does the man from the west realise about his companion?
 - (b) How did he know that the tall man was not Jimmy Wells?
- III. The tall man gives 'Silky' Bob a note from Ratrolman Wells,
 - (a) Why did Bob's hand tremble when he finished reading the note?

Discussion and Writing

1. Pointing out Jimmy Well's dilemma when he meets 'Silky' Bob after twenty years, discuss whether or not you would maintain that he did the only thing he should have done.

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2. How would you categorise the story: comic or tragic? Give reasons for your answer based on the details of the story.
3. Though Bob is an underworld character, what is it that makes it difficult for us to dislike him?
4. Compare and contrast the character and destinies of Jimmy and Bob as presented in the story.

Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening

--Robert Frost

Difficult Words

Queer - Strange
A set of straps by which a horse or any other animal is fastened to a cart – harness
Q & A
Q-1 Who is the speaker? Where is he in the poem?
Ans. The speaker is the poet himself. He is passing through the woods.
Q-2 Why do you think the poet stopped in the woods?
Ans. In the first stanza, the poet is travelling on a horse. On his way, he stops in the woods to watch them “fill up with snow.” He stops there to enjoy the beauty of nature.
Q-3 What is woods?
Ans. The meaning of woods in this poem is a small forest or a thick growth of trees.
Q-4 Describe the woods the poet is in.
Ans. The woods are ‘lovely, dark and deep.’ The poet is attracted by the beauty and silence of woods on a snowy evening.
Q-5 Who is the owner of the woods and why will he not be able to see the poet?
Ans. The owner lives in the village, away from the woods so he will not be able to see the poet stopping in the forest.

Q-6 What is the feeling of the poet standing in the woods?

Ans. The poet is attracted by the beauty and silence of woods on a snowy evening. He wants to enjoy the calmness of the environment and the dark, deep, lovely woods. The beautiful sights of nature make him forget his duties and responsibilities.

Q-7 Where did the horse stop?

Ans. The horse stopped near a farmhouse between the woods and a frozen lake.

Q-8 What must the horse find queer and strange?

Ans. The horse must find it queer that the speaker halted at a that place between the woods and frozen lake on such a cold and dark evening ,when there was heavy snowfall. The horse knows they have not reached their destination and does not understand the reason why the poet stops unnecessarily in the woods.

Q-9 Why does the horse give his bell a shake?

Ans. The horse shakes his bell to ask the author if they made a mistake by stopping in the woods. This is because the horse knows that they have not reached their destination.

Q-10 Which sound does the speaker listen at woods?

Ans. The speaker listens to the sound of wind blowing and falling of snow.

Q-11 Why are the woods called lovely, dark and deep?

Ans. The poet calls the woods lovely, dark and deep because it is a winter evening when snow is falling. The woods are deep

because the poet cannot see through the woods. The whole atmosphere is very enchanting and beautiful.

Q-12 What is the significance of “sleep” in the poem?

Ans. ‘Sleep’ here refers to death, which overcomes everything in the material world. The poet wants to say that life is like a journey and there are lots of temptations on our way. We should overcome all these temptations and continue peacefully towards our final destination – a long eternal sleep.

Q-13 What promise is the speaker talking about?

Ans. The ‘promises’ are the duties and responsibilities which the speaker has towards himself and others. There are many commitments that the poet has to take care of. He wants to fulfill those duties and responsibilities before entering into a long sleep, which is death.

MCQs

1. Where did the author stop?

Ans. Between the woods and frozen lake.

2. The woods are lovely, dark and deep.

3. What is the only other sound the author hears in the woods?

Ans. sweep of the wind

4. ‘He gives his harness bells a shake’? Who is he?

Ans. the horse

5. What season is it when the author visits the woods?

Ans. winter

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6. My little horse must think it queer.

7. What time of day is it?

Ans. evening

8. Who is the author of the poem *Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening*?

Ans. Robert Frost

9. What reaction does the horse give when the author stops?

Ans. He gives his harness bells a shake.

10. Whose woods is the author in?

Ans. The man who lives in the village.

11. The woods are filled up with snow.

12. The horse shakes his harness bells to ask if there is some mistake.

Where the Mind is Without Fear

--Rabindranath Tagore

Word Meanings:-

1. **fragments:** pieces
2. **head is held high:** self respect
3. **domestic:** related to family
4. **striving:** trying hard, motivated
5. **tireless:** without getting tired
6. **stream:** river
7. **dreary:** dull
8. **reason:** intellect
9. **dead habits:** old customs
10. **desert:** dry area of land
11. **awake:** to get up from sleep

1. What does the poet mean by “where knowledge is free”?
Ans. By “where knowledge is free”, Tagore wants to say that every citizen of India should have free access to knowledge. Knowledge should not be restricted to only a few people, but should be made available to all the sects of Indian society.
2. What breaks the world into fragments?
Ans. The world is broken into fragments by the narrow walls like caste systems, religion, color and so on. Such things divide people from one another.
3. What does the line ‘Where words come out from the depth of truth’ mean?
Ans. The poet wants his countrymen to be truthful and sincere. They should not tell lies. On the contrary, they should speak what they feel.

4. According to the poet, what must be done for achieving ‘ever-widening thought and action’?
Ans. ‘Ever-widening thought and action’ means we should not be narrow in our mentality. People should have a broad mind and heart. They should enrich their thinking.
5. What is meant by ‘mind is without fear’?
Ans. Tagore says that people should be free from fear of everything. Here he means that the people of his country should not only be brave and courageous but also that they should possess a mind free of unnecessary anxiety and superstitions.
6. What does the poet mean by saying tireless striving? What does the poet want his country men to achieve by tireless striving?
or
What according to the poet do people tirelessly strive towards?
Ans. By ‘tireless striving’ the poet refers to the hard work done by the people of his ideal country. They should struggle to progress and should never get tired of hard work. He wants people to work hard in order to take their work to perfection.
7. What according to the poet are the hurdles in achieving perfection?
Ans. Getting tired and lack of effort are the hurdles in achieving perfection. He wants his country men to be tireless and striving so that they can achieve perfection. Practice makes perfect and one should not get tired of hard work at all.
8. How does the poet describe old habits?

Ans. The poet describes old habits as dreary desert sand. Habits that are dead are compared to desert sand because desert is dry and fruitless. In the same way, old habits are useless, as they do not lead us to anywhere.
9. How does the poet describe 'heaven of freedom'?
Ans. According to the poet, 'heaven of freedom' is a state which we should aim to attain. In the heaven of freedom, the mind will be without any prejudices or limits and there will be unity among all people. But, 'heaven of freedom' can be achieved by the people who are fearless, knowledgeable, hard-working and truthful.
9. Who does the poet address as 'thee' and my father?
Ans. The poet is addressing to God as 'thee' and my father.
10. What kind of freedom does the poet desire for his country?
Ans. In this poem, the poet does not want only political freedom for his countrymen. On the contrary, he wants spiritual freedom with self-dignity. He wants people to be fearless, knowledgeable, truthful, active and broad-minded.
11. What does the poet want our 'mind' and 'head' to be?
Ans. The poet wants our minds to be free from fear and heads to be held high.
12. Who is Thee in the poem? What does the poet appeal to Thee to do?
Ans. 'Thee' in this poem is God. The poet appeals to God to awaken his country into a heaven of freedom, where the people have freedom of words, thoughts and actions.
13. Write a short note on the central idea of the poem.

Ans. The poem 'Where the Mind is Without Fear' has been taken from the Nobel-winning collection of poems 'Gitanjali' written by Rabindranath Tagore. It was originally written in Bengali and subsequently translated into English by Tagore himself. In this poem, Tagore presents an idealistic vision of India. In this poem, the poet is praying to God to give his countrymen freedom of thoughts and expressions and freedom from the bondage of social evils. The poet prays to God saying that his country should be free from the fear of oppression and each person should be able to hold his head high. There should be an atmosphere of fearlessness. The country should be a place where knowledge is available to everyone equally without any discrimination caste, gender or religion. He wants a nation where people are truthful and where everyone works to achieve perfection in their work. In the last paragraph, the poet appeals the people of the country should be living united, The poet requests God to take his country to that 'heaven of freedom' where people are free from superstitions.

MCQs

1. 'Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake'—The

'country' referred to here is

(a) England (b) America (c) Russia **(d) India**

2. A nation is broken into fragments by narrow--

(a) boundary walls **(b) domestic walls** (c) private walls (d) public walls

3. The narrow domestic walls--

(a) break a society into fragments **(b) break a nation into fragments**

(c) break a world into fragments (d) break community into fragments

4. The poet wants the words to come from

(a) the depth of spirits (b) the depth of psychology (c) the depth of inner

heart **(d) the depth of truth**

5. The dead habit is compared to

(a) the sand of ancient habits **(b) the sand of dead habits** (c) the sand of

desert (d) the sand of river
6. Where the mind is led forward by Thee. Who is addressed here?
(a) Heaven (b) God (c) spirit of the nation (d) God or the spirit of the nation
7. Man's mind should be led forward into ever widening--
(a) thought (b) action (c) thought and action (d) thought and plan
8. The poet prays to God to lead our minds
(a) to God (b) to thought (c) to action (d) into ever widening thought and action
9. According to the poet, man should all the time work for...
(a) head (b) body (c) beauty (d) perfection
10. 'Where the world has not been broken up into fragments.' The word
'fragments' means
(a) small pieces (b) little parts (c) countries (d) cities
11. The poet invokes the mind without fear to
(a) attain freedom (b) attain strength (c) attain freedom (d) attain success
12. The poet wants his countrymen to live with--
(a) self-respect (b) confidence (c) dignity (d) honour
13. The expression 'tireless striving' refers to
(a) slavery (b) dependence (c) endless efforts (d) liberty
14. What is meant by 'mind is without fear and head is held high.'
(a) to be fearless and self respecting (b) to be proud of one's high
position (c) to stand straight and be carefree
15. The domestic walls are usually associated with safety, comfort and
love. What is the meaning of 'narrow domestic walls'?
(a) small houses which make us feel cramped

(b) ideas which are petty and narrow-minded
(c) a house divided into rooms by walls
