# Chapter 1: A Letter to God

By Gregorio López y Fuentes

### Summary of the Chapter

- The story is about **Lencho**, a poor farmer with strong faith in God.
- His crops are destroyed by a **hailstorm**, leaving his family without food.
- Believing God would not let him starve, he writes a letter to God asking for 100 pesos to sow his fields again and survive.
- The postmaster and his employees are touched by his faith. They collect money (less than 100 pesos) and send it to him.
- Lencho receives the money but gets angry because it is less. He is sure God cannot make a mistake.
- He writes another letter asking God to send the remaining money directly to him, as he believes the post office employees are dishonest.

## Themes

- Faith in God Lencho's unquestionable belief in divine help.
- Humanity & Kindness The postmaster and others help Lencho despite his suspicion
- Innocence & Ignorance Lencho fails to realize it was humans who helped him.
- **Irony** Lencho mistrusts the very people who helped him.

#### Characters

- **Lencho** Poor farmer, innocent, hardworking, deeply religious, unshakable faith in God.
- **Lencho's family** Supportive, hardworking, dependent on crops.
- **Postmaster** Kind, generous, compassionate, wants to preserve Lencho's faith.
- **Post office employees** Helpful, donate from their salary to support Lencho.

## Important Incidents

- 1. Lencho's crops destroyed by hailstorm → despair.
- 2. Writes letter to God asking for 100 pesos  $\rightarrow$  shows faith.
- 3. Postmaster admires Lencho's faith  $\rightarrow$  collects money with others.
- 4. Lencho receives money → angry, thinks employees are crooks.

## Message of the Story

- Faith can inspire hope and action.
- Humanity and kindness exist in the world.
- Blind faith without gratitude may cause misunderstanding.

## Literary Devices

- Irony → Lencho thinks post office employees are thieves, but they actually helped him.
- **Dramatic irony** → Readers know the truth; Lencho doesn't.
- **Symbolism** → Rain = hope, Hailstorm = destruction.

#### Possible Exam Questions

- 1. Why did Lencho write a letter to God?
- 2. How did the postmaster and his employees help Lencho?
- 3. What is ironic about Lencho's faith?
- 4. What values of humanity are reflected in the story?

#### Short Q&A (One-Liners for Quick Revision)

- Author → Gregorio López y Fuentes
- Who was Lencho? → A poor farmer with unshakable faith in God.
- What destroyed Lencho's crops? → A hailstorm.
- Money asked from God? → 100 pesos.

- Why write a letter? → To ask God for help after crop loss.
- Who read the letter? → Postmaster.
- Why did the postmaster help? → To preserve Lencho's faith.
- How much was sent? → Less than 100 pesos.
- Why was Lencho angry? → He thought employees stole the rest.
- Irony? → Helpers were called crooks by Lencho.
- Moral → Faith inspires, but blind faith may mislead.

## Long Q&A

#### Q1. What were Lencho's feelings when the hailstorm destroyed his crops?

Lencho was heartbroken when his crops were ruined, but his faith in God gave him hope. He believed God would not let his family starve.

#### Q2. Why did Lencho write a letter to God? What did he ask for?

Lencho wrote to God asking for 100 pesos to sow his fields again. This showed his simplicity, innocence, and deep faith.

#### Q3. How did the postmaster and employees react to the letter?

The postmaster was moved by Lencho's faith. He collected money with help from employees and sent it to Lencho, showing kindness and generosity.

#### Q4. Why did Lencho call the employees "a bunch of crooks"?

Lencho believed God could not make mistakes. Since the money was less than 100 pesos, he thought the employees had stolen it.

#### Q5. What message does the story convey?

The story teaches us about faith, humanity, kindness, and irony. Faith can inspire, but gratitude and understanding are equally important.



#### Value-Based Q&A

#### Q1. What values of Lencho are revealed?

Faith, simplicity, hope, and hard work.

#### Q2. What values are shown by the postmaster and employees?

Kindness, generosity, compassion, and empathy.

#### Q3. What does the story teach about faith?

Faith gives strength, but blind faith may cause misunderstanding.

## Q4. How is irony used?

It highlights selfless service—true kindness may not be recognized.

## Q5. What message does the story give students?

Have faith, gratitude, and optimism; appreciate others' help.

# Mind Map

#### A Letter to God

- Lencho → Poor farmer, faith in God
- Events → Rain → Hailstorm destroys crops → Letter to God (100 pesos) →
  Postmaster helps → Lencho angry
- Themes → Faith, Humanity, Innocence, Irony
- Characters → Lencho, Family, Postmaster, Employees, God (symbol)
- Message → Faith inspires hope, kindness matters, blind faith causes misunderstanding