Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Question Bank: Chapter 5 (Part 1)

1. Description of 90 isles

Ninety isles lie to the west of roke in a crowd between the two great lands Hosk nd Ensmer. The nearest of the isles that lie to Roke is Serd and the farthest is Seppish, which lies almost in the Pelnish Sea and whether the sum of them is ninety is a question never settled. The channels run narrow between the islets and there are the mild tides of the Inmost Sea, chafed and baffled run high and fall low so that where at high tide might be three islands in one place, at low there might be one. There are few bridges and no great towns. Every islet is thick with farms and fishermen’s houses and these are gathered into townships each of ten or twenty isles.

1. How does the counting of the 90 isles waver?

The sum of the isles is ninety is a question never settled for if one counts only isles with freshwater springs, one might have seventy while if one counts every rock one might have a hundred and still not be done and then the tide would change.

1. Description of Low Torning

Low Torning is westernmost looking not on the Inmost Sea but outward to empty ocean that lonesy corner of the Archipelago where only Pendor lies, the dragon spoiled isle and beyond it the waters of the West Reach is desolate.

1. Describe the house in which Ged was going to stay.

The house stood on a hill among green fields of barley, sheltered from the west wind by a grove of pendick trees that now were red with flowers from the door. One could look out on other thatched roofs, groves, gardens and other islands with the roofs fields and hills and among them many winding channels of the sea. It was a poor house which was windowless and with an earthern floor. Yet it was a better house than the one Ged had been born in.

1. How were the Isle-Men of Low Torning standing?

They were standing in awe of the wizard from Roke asking pardon for the humbleness of the house. They said that they had no stone to build with as none of them were rich and nobody would starve.

1. Why were the Isle Men proud to receive the first registry of Ged?

The men were proud to receive this first registry of Ged as wizards trained on Roke went commonly to cities or to castles to serve the high lords who held them in high house. These fishermen would have no more than a witch or a plain sorcerer to charm the fishing nets, sing over new boats and cure beasts and men of their ailments.

1. Why had the Isle men sent to Roke begging for wizard?

The Isle Men Wanted a wizard to protect their folk from the old Dragon of Pendor who had spawned nine Dragons which were kept in the ruined towers of Sealords of Pendor. It was said that the nine Dragons dragged their scales bellied bodies up and down the marble stairs and through the broken door ways. Wanting food on that dead isle they would be flying forth some year when they were grown and hunger came upon them. Already a flight of four had been seen over the southwest shores of Hosk not alighting but spying out the sheep folds, barns and villages. The hunger of a dragon is slow to wake, but hard to satiate.

1. How had Ged changed after the night on Roke knoll?

Since the night on Roke knoll his Desire had turned as much against famous display as once it had been set on them. Now he doubted his strength and dreaded the trial of his power. Also the talk of Dragons drew him with great curiosity. There had been no dragons for many hundred years in Gont and no Dragon would ever fly close to Roke. And so that there also there are matters of tales and songs sung of but not seen Ged had learned he could of dragons at the school but it is one thing to read about dragons and another to meet them .The chance lay bright before him and heartily he answered that he would go.

1. How was Ged's life at Pendor?

It seemed a bright in a place at first the house on the flowering trees and Ged would often watch the Western Sky and kept his wizard's ear tuned for the sound of scaly wings. Ged fished from his jetty, tended his garden patch. He spent whole days pondering a page, a line or a word in the lore-books he had brought from Roke, sitting out in the summer air under the pendick trees. He would serve the people as heallall and weatherworker whenever they asked for him. It did not enter his head that a wizard might be shamed to perform such simple crafts for he had been a witch-child among poor folk than these partly because he was a wizard from the Isle of the Wise and partly because of his silence and scarred face.

1. Describe Ged and Pechvarry's friendship.

Ged and Pechvarry met on a Jetty that belong to the boat maker Ged has stopped to watch him stepping the mast of a little cat boat. Pechvarry had said that a month's work was nearly over and he would have done it in a minute with the word Jet replied that he might had but it would have sunk the next minute if he hadn't kept the spells up. After that Jet suggested that he could set a binding spell on her to help keep her sound aura finding spell to help bring her back from the sea. Pechvarry told Ged that the little boat was for his son and if he could lay such charms on her it would be mighty kindness and friendly act. Saying this he climbed up on the jetty to take Ged's hand and thanked him. After that they would come to work together Ged would interweave his spell crafts with Pechvarry's handwork on the boats he built or repaired and in return learnt from Pechvarry how to build a boat and how it is handled without magic. Often Ged, Pechvarry and his little son Ioeth went into the channels and lagoons sailing or rowing till Ged was a fair sailor and the friendship between him and Pechvarry was a settled thing.

1. What happened in late autumn? How was Ged called?

In late autumn the boatmaker's son fell sick. The mother sent for the witch woman of Tesk isle who was a good hand at healing and also the child seemed well for a day or two. Suddenly one stormy night Pechvarry came hammering at Ged's door begging him to come and save the child. Ged ran down the boat with him to the boatmaker's house.

1. What did Ged see in the boat maker's house?

Ged saw the child on the pallet bed. The mother crouching silent beside him Nd the witch-woman making a smoke of corly-root singing the Nagian chant which was the best healing she had. She whispered to Ged that she thinks it was redfever and the child would die of it that night.

1. What did Ged do immediately after that? How did the couple react?

Immediately after that Ged knelt and put his hands on the child and thought the same. He drew back a moment. In the latter months of his own sickness the Master Herbal had taught him much of the healer's lore and the first lesson and the last of all that kore was. Heal the wound and cure the illness but let the dying spirit go. The mother saw his movement and the meaning of it and she cried aloud in despair. The father, Pechvarry, stopped down by her and said that the Lord Sparrowhawk would save him and there was no need of crying. He was there and he could save the child.

1. What did Ged say and feel on seeing Pechvarry trusting him? What did he do next?

On hearing the mother's wail and seeing the trust Pechvarry had in him, Ged did not know how he could disappoint them. He mistrusted his own judgement and thought perhaps the child be saved, if the fever could be brought down. He said that he would do his best. He set to bathing the little boy with cold rainwater that they brought new fallen from out of doors and he began to say one of the spells of fever stay. The spell took no hold and made no whole and suddenly he thought the child was dying in his arms. Summoning his power all at once and with no thought for himself, he sent his spirit out after the child’s spirit to bring it back home. He called out the child’s name thinking some faint answer would come hearing it and he called once again.

1. What happened as a result of calling out the child’s name?

As a result of calling out the child’s name, Ged saw that the little boy was running fast and far ahead of him down a dark slope. There was no sound. He saw those stars that never set, that are not paled by the coming of any day. He had followed the child’s spirit too far and knowing this he found himself alone of the dark hillside. It was hard to turn back. However, he turned slowly and set one foot forward to climb back up the hill and then the other. He came to the top of the hill and there saw the low wall of stones. But across the wall, facing him there was a shadow.

1. Describe the shadow.

The shadow did not have the shape of a man or beast. It was shapeless and scarcely to be seen but whispered at him though there were no words. It stood on the side of the living and he on the side of the dead. The thing was not flesh, no alive nor spirit. It was unnamed having no being but what Ged had given it a terrible power outside the laws of the sunlit world.

1. What was Ged supposed to do next? What happened because of his action?

Ged was supposed to go down the hill into the desert lands and lightless cities of the dead or he must step across the wall back into life where the formless evil thing waited for him. His spirit staff was in his hand and he raised it high. With that motion strength came to him. As he made a leap the low wall of stones straight at the shadow, the staff burned suddenly white. He leaped, felt himself fall and saw no more.

1. What had Pechvarry, his wife and the witch seen?

Pechvarry, his wife and the witch had seen that the young wizard had stopped midway in his spell and held the child a while motionless. Then he laid the little boy gently down on the pallet and had risen and stood silent staff in hand. He raised the staff high and it blazed with white fire and all the household things in the hut leaped out strange and vivid in that momentary fire. When their eyes were clear from the dazzlement they saw the young man lying huddled forward on the earthern floor beside the pallet where the child lay dead.

1. Was Ged alive or dead?

Ged was alive however Pechvarrry and his wife thought that the wizard was dead too. The witch had some hearsay knowledge about the ways a true wizard may go. She was seeing how ged was treated not as a dead man but someone who is sick or tranced. He was carried home and an old woman was left to watch and see whether he was resting or he was dead.

1. How did little otak contribute to awaken Ged?

When Ged was carried back and he lay stretched stiff and still on the bed, the otak began to lick his hands and wrists. It also licked his temple and his scarred cheek and softly his closed eyes. Very slowly with that soft touch Ged roused. He woke up not knowing where he had been or where he was and what the grey light in the air was which was around him.