

## 03 - Appointment In Samarra.

W. Somerset Maugham.

I Short answers :-

- 1) First novel of somerset maugham → Liza of Lambeth.
- 2) City of Samara stands on the bank of → River Tigris
- 3) Maugham included the story at the end of his play → Sheppery.
- 4) This story is included in the collection of → Stories by Idris Shah Sufi Stories.
- 5) Speaker in the story → Death.
- 6) Death appears in the guise of a woman in story.
- 7) This story set in Baghdad.
- 8) Y. did the servant go to market →
  - A) To buy provisions for his master.
- 9) The servant goes to Samarra, bcz he wanted to escape from death.
- 10) Narrator of the story → Death.
- 11) Y was death surprised at seeing the servant in Baghdad?
  - A) ... Bcz she had a ~~appointment~~ with him that night at Samarra which is 70 miles away from Baghdad.
- 12) Theme of the story → 'There is no escape from death.'

13) 'Apprentice' in this tale means death of Servant.

14) To whom is this story being told?

A) This story is being told to Sheepy, the protagonist at the play 'Sheepy' by Maugham.

## II Long answer:-

1) Comment on the language of this tale?

A) S. Maugham is known for his clear uncluttered style & a strong understanding of human nature. Here (M) has used a language that

B) very comprehendible. The narrator is the servant who says to the master uses a language that aggravates the fear of death.

(M) chooses elegant words - jostled, trembling.

John the reader as well as servant to master are relieved of the fact that the death will get its catch. Minimal words are being used by author to lend a creepy atmosphere to the story so it adds mystery to the world of fate.

4) How does (M) bring out the idea of fatalism here?

A) Que sera sera is a term associated with (F) which means 'whatever will be, will be'. There is no denying the fact that nothing can stop the fate from its course. The idea of fate is that events in a time line follows a predetermined sequence based on unaltered cause-and-effect relations. In W.S.(M)'s quenction of this story the over whelming concept is the inevitable, fate of death. The

Story begins with death speaking to the reader about a merchant & his servant in Baghdad. The servant narrates to his master that he was jostled by a woman & then came to master to lend him a horse so that he can escape from death by riding to Samara. But

bate has the last laugh who master is

influenced by the woman that death awaits him only when he is in Samara, not in Baghdad.

3) Why do you think death is gendered in this tale? Is women more portrayed in a light

in Baghdad during those ages, just as the same way death is not looking at something true. In Greek mythology, the death was depicted as blind women. Had it been a male figure for death it would have been more intimidating - which (M) did not intend., gender difference changes how the gender interprets death of an individual.

She made a 'threatening gesture'. He thinks that the only way to escape from her is to gallop away to Samarra. So he lends a horse from his master & rides away. After this merchant went to market place to confront death & death & the encounter with his servant, when the merchant asked death why she made a threatening gesture towards the servant, she replied "That was not a threatening gesture, for I have a appointment with him tonight in Samarra". This is ironic bcz the very place where servant was trying to cheat death was the very place where he will come to terms with her. Nobody can escape the inevitable fate.

\* Theme: You can't escape from death. In the story Death is talking & explaining to the merchant that she wasn't threatening the servant. The servant left thinking he could run away from death. In the end death told merchant she had an appointment with him in Samarra where the servant fled.