



MORE QUESTIONS SOLVED

A. Short Answer Type Questions

Question 1. "I couldn't believe what I saw," says the narrator. What was so unbelievable? Why?

Answer: The narrator saw his cousin Mourad sitting on a beautiful white horse. It was unbelievable, for they belonged to poor families and buying such a beautiful horse was beyond their means.

Question 2. What two character-traits of Mourad are hinted at by the narrator in the initial part of the story?

Answer: Mourad was considered crazy by everybody who knew him except the narrator. He was quite crazy about horses. Secondly, he enjoyed being alive more than any body else.

Question 3. "This was the part that wouldn't permit me to believe what I saw." What 'part' does the narrator hint at?

Answer: The narrator refers to their poverty. They had no money. They lived in extreme poverty and it was difficult to understand how they got food to satisfy their hunger. He frankly admits that every branch of the Garoghlanian family was living in the most amazing and comical poverty in the world.

Question 4. What traits of the Garoghlanian family are highlighted in this story?

Answer: The Garoghlanian family though now poor, were famous for their honesty even when they were wealthy. They were proud of their family first, honest next and after that they believed in right and wrong. None of them would take advantage of anybody in the world. They would not steal. No member of the Garoghlanian family could be a thief.

Question 5. How did the narrator react on seeing the horse and Mourad?

Answer: The horse was magnificent to look at, gave out a lovely smell and its breathing was quite exciting. Yet he couldn't believe that the horse had anything to do with Mourad, because he couldn't have bought it.

Question 6. What conflicting thoughts passed through the narrator's mind on seeing Mourad on a beautiful white horse early one morning?

Answer: The narrator was surprised. He knew that his cousin Mourad couldn't have bought the horse. Since he couldn't have bought it, he must have stolen it. However, family pride came in the way. He refused to believe that he had stolen it.

Question 7. What feelings did the sight of cousin Mourad and the horse arouse in the narrator?

Answer: The narrator stared first at his cousin and then at the horse. There was a pious stillness and humour in each of them. He was delighted as well as frightened.

Question 8. "It was true, then. He hhd stolen the horse. There was no question about it. He had come to invite me to ride or not, as I chose." How did the narrator convince himself to enjoy a horseride with cousin Mourad?

Answer: It seemed to him that stealing a horse for a ride was not the same thing as stealing something else, such as money. Since he and Mourad were quite crazy about horses, it wasn't stealing. He convinced himself with the thought that it would become stealing only when they offered to sell it.

Question 9. Give examples to show why cousin Mourad was considered one of the craziest members of the narrator's family?

Answer: Cousin Mourad had a crazy streak. He was quite crazy about horses. He kept the stolen white horse for about six weeks, rode it, loved it, fed it well and hid it in a deserted yard. When he sang in the open countryside, it seemed as if he were roaring.

Question 10. Why does the narrator mention uncle Khosrove? Which characteristic features of the man are highlighted?

Answer: Cousin Mourad seemed to inherit the crazy streak of unde Khosrove. He was a big man with a powerful head of black hair and very large moustache. He was quite furious in temper, very irritable and impatient. He would stop anyone from talking by roaring his pet phrase, "It is no harm; pay no attention to it".

Question 11. Give an example to illustrate how uncle Khosrove's impatience sometimes worked to his own disadvantage?

Answer: Once unde Khosrove was getting his moustache trimmed in a barber's shop. Suddenly their house was on fire. His own son Arak ran eight blocks to the barber's shop to inform him. Khosrove got impatient and roared at his son. When the barber reminded him that his house was on fire, Khosrove roared at him and stopped him from talking.

Question 12. "The distribution of the various kinds of spirit of our tribe had been from the beginning capricious and vagrant." Elucidate.

Answer: The Garoghlanian family had a crazy streak. Mourad was considered the natural descendant of uncle Khosrove as far as the crazy streak was concerned. Mourad's father, Zorab was practical and nothing else. But Mourad was his son only in flesh; in spirit, he was similar to unde Khosrove.

Question 13. Give a brief account of Mourad's joy ride.

Answer: Mourad kicked his heels into the horse and shouted, "Vazire run!" The horse stood on its hind legs, snorted, and ran forward at full speed. Mourad raced the horse across a field of dry grass to an irrigation ditch. He crossed the ditch on the horse. When he returned five minutes later he was dripping wet.

Question 14. How did Aram, the narrator, fare in his solo ride?

Answer: Aram leaped to the back of the horse, but it did not move. Then he kicked into the muscles of the horse. It reared and snorted. Then it began to run. Aram did not know how to ride. The horse ran down the road to a vineyard. It leaped over seven vines, threw the rider and ran away.

Question 15. "We'll either take him back or hide him until tomorrow morning". Which course of action did the speaker take and why?

Answer: Mourad took the latter option. He hid the horse in the bam of a deserted vineyard which at onetime had been the pride of farmer named Fetvajian. There were some oats and dry alfalfa in the bam. So Mourad did not seem worried about the horse.

Question 16. "I have an understanding with a horse."
"Horses understand me."

"I have a way with a horse."

How do you think, had Mourad developed an understanding with the horse and what was the result?

Answer: Mourad had been quite tender and affectionate towards the horse. He would put his arms around it, press his nose into the

horse's nose and pat it. It was not easy to tame some one else's horse and get it to behave nicely. At first it wanted to run wild. Gradually, Mourad was able to control the horse and do what he wanted. Even John Byro, the rightful owner, admitted that the horse had become better-tempered and stronger than ever.

Question 17. Contrast the two visitors to narrator's house who visited them one afternoon.

Answer: Uncle Khosrove was irritable, impatient and furious in temper. He stopped anyone from talking by roaring: "It's no harm; pay no attention to it." Farmer John Byro was a lonely Assyrian. He was sad at the loss of his horse and the uselessness of his squire without a horse.

Question 18. How did uncle Khosrove react to John Byro's complaint about the steal of his horse ?

Answer: John Byro was sad that his white horse had been stolen last month and it was missing even then. Instead of showing any sympathy, uncle Khosrove became very irritated and shouted: "It's no harm. What is the loss of a horse?...What is this crying over a horse?"

Question 19. What arguments did farmer John Byro advance to prove the usefulness of a horse to a country dweller?

Answer: First, his squire was no good without a horse. Second, he had to walk ten miles to get there and his left leg pained him. Thirdly, that horse had cost him sixty dollars. A city dweller like Khosrove may not realise the importance of a horse.

Question 20. Why did farmer John Byro stalk out of the house, slamming the screen door ?

Answer: Farmer John Byro visited the narrator's house. He was homesick, sad and lonely. His horse had been stolen for over a month. Instead of showing any sympathy or concern for his loss, uncle Khosrove repeated his catchword: "It's no harm. Pay no attention to it". When John Byro talked about the cost of horse, uncle Khosrove commented: "I spit on money." This was too much for John Byro to bear and so he left the house in disgust.

Question 21. How did Mourad help the wounded Robin to fly? What does this incident indicate?

Answer: The narrator noticed Mourad trying to cure the hind wing of a young robin which could not fly. He was talking to the bird. After sometime, he threw the bird into the air. The bird tried hard and almost fell twice. However, at last it flew away, high and straight. This incident shows that in spite of having a crazy streak, Mourad was kind at heart and gentle towards God's creatures.

Question 22. What request did the narrator make to his cousin Mourad about the horse? How did he react to it? What does this reveal?

Answer: The narrator requested his cousin Mourad not to return the horse to farmer John Byro till he learnt to ride. Mourad observed that it might take him a year. The narrator suggested to keep the horse for a year. Mourad shouted that he was inciting him to steal. He declared that the horse must go back to its true owner. This shows his honesty and sense of family pride.

Question 23. What did farmer John Byro observe after studying the horse the two boys had with them?

Answer: The farmer studied the horse eagerly and asked its name. Mourad said that they called it "My Heart". John Byro appreciated it as a lovely name for a lovely horse. He was ready to swear that it was the horse that was stolen from him many weeks ago.

Question 24. "A suspicious man would believe his eyes instead of his heart" In what context was this observation made and by whom?

Answer: This observation was made by farmer John Byro after looking into the mouth of the horse. It matched his horse tooth for tooth. He would have claimed it as his own horse if he had not known their parents or the fame of their family for honesty. The resemblance was so striking that he called it the twin of his horse.

Question 25. What do you think, induced the boys to return the horse to its owner?

Answer: The boys were impressed by John Byro's attitude towards their parents and family. He knew their parents very well and so believed whatever the boys said. Secondly, the fame of their family for honesty was well-known to him. The boys returned the horse to him for the sake of family pride and dignity.

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