

### 3. A HORSE AND TWO GOATS

**About the writer:**

Rasipuram Krishnaswami Ayyar Narayanswami, a.k.a R.K. Narayan, was an Indian writer known for 'Malgudi Days'. He was a leading author of early Indian Literature in English. Narayan's stories highlight social and mundane issues of every person belonging to the middle class. They focus on ordinary people, next-door neighbours, cousins and thereby providing greater ability to relate to his stories. They explore ordinary life with humour and compassion. He published 'A Horse and Two Goats,' a collection of short stories, in 1970.

**Summary:**

This is a humorous story that takes place in a little hamlet named Kritam. It is about an illiterate villager Muni and his conversation with an American traveller. Muni who once had a flock of forty, which is now reduced to just two thin goats. He is a childless man living with his wife. Tired of eating drumstick leaves, one day he has an 'unholy craving' to chew drumstick out of sauce. His wife instructs him to get certain ingredients but much to his dismay, the shop-owner not only mocks at his misery and poverty but also refuses to give him anything. Dejectedly, he returns home. After resting for a while, he sets out with his two goats for the highway on the outskirts of the village. He would go there daily, sit idly and return home in the evening. That day, an American came to talk to him but in English. Muni's English vocabulary consists of just two words. Having finished his vocabulary, Muni starts talking in Tamil which the American doesn't understand at all. In their entire conversation which goes nowhere, the only common point of discussion is the statue of the horse. The American is intrigued by the aesthetic beauty of the horse. He looks at the horse from materialistic point of view but for Muni, the horse is their guardian who will save them from their adversaries. The American wishes to buy the horse and assumes Muni to be its owner. On the other hand, Muni initially feels that the American is an inquisitor who came to inquire about a murder that had taken place. Later when the American offers him a cigarette, Muni deduces that he had come there to buy his two goats. Muni is extremely happy to have sold his two goats for a good amount and the American is happy to get a splendid masterpiece that is the horse. Muni returns home with the money. Hardly had he started telling his wife about the deal when the two goats bleated outside his home.

**Glossary:**

dotting	–	spread
grandiose	–	grand, impressive
brow	–	tip
gargoyles	–	a grotesquely carved figure of a human or animal
balustrade	–	a railing or wall to prevent people from falling over

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thatch	–	roof covering with straw
sallied	–	set out from a place to do something
pedestal	–	a platform
crook	–	a hooked staff of a cowherd or shepherd
snapped	–	removed
foliage	–	leaves
avenue trees	–	trees on the either side of the street
faggots	–	bundle of sticks meant for fuel
fortunes	–	(here) wealth
pen	–	a small enclosure in which sheep, pigs or other farm animals are kept
sauce	–	(here) curry
stuff	–	(here) ingredients
store	–	ration, food storage.
gingelly	–	sesame oil (til)
ails	–	troubles
inordinately	–	excessively
humouring	–	(here) to yield to
sneered	–	smiled mockingly
parapet	–	barrier or a fencing
unobtrusively	–	(here) unnoticed
scoundrel	–	good-for-nothing, dishonest person
recoup	–	regain or recover
conjure	–	recreate
scrub	–	undergrowth
unleashing	–	releasing
accosted	–	address someone boldly
cronies	–	a close friend or companion
lounging	–	relaxing
hailed	–	(here) called
meandered	–	wandered
reared	–	(here) raised
prancing	–	jumping
flourishing	–	(here) twirling
loop	–	curve
scythe	–	a tool used for cutting crops
mustachios	–	a large bushy mustache

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aquiline	–	like an eagle
splendour	–	magnificence
vandals	–	people who deliberately destroy or damage property
gashed	–	a long deep cut
inscribed	–	carve on something
lewd	–	crude or vulgar
arid	–	having little or no rain
lantana	–	tropical evergreen shrub
scrounge	–	search desperately
intrigued	–	fascinated
assortment	–	mixture
sputtered	–	make a series of soft explosive or spitting sounds
poking	–	(here) bending down
gas station	–	petrol pump
fidgeted	–	being impatient and uneasy
gainsay	–	challenge or oppose
slanderers	–	frauds
season	–	(here) moment
undaunted	–	not discouraged
racking	–	(here) strong dose
to take stock of a situation	–	to analyse a situation
Inquisitor	–	an Officer of the Inquisition
wary	–	cautious
potent	–	powerful
reeling	–	swaying
ingratiatingly	–	flatteringly
implored	–	requested
scruples	–	principles or rules
deliberation	–	deep thinking
sidled	–	move sideways
concession	–	(here) supportive reply
to edge out	–	to move out
pinioned	–	hold back
urchin	–	a young child who is poorly dressed
souvenir	–	memento, keepsakes
presiding	–	sitting authoritative
assuming	–	bringing
indigo	–	shade of blue
flaming	–	(here) bright

adversaries	–	enemies
redeemer	–	saviour
brooding	–	imagining
modest	–	(here) low profile
boat	–	(here) ship
station wagon	–	a vehicle that has enormous space for cargo or luggage
mystification	–	confusion
dashed	–	(here) put
bearish trend	–	a good time to strike a deal
flourishing	–	showing off
notion	–	idea
sovereigns	–	gold coin of U.K.
reel	–	faint
hoard	–	stock
wrest	–	pull
capital	–	money obtained after selling
wayfarers	–	travellers
clump of thicket	–	small group of trees
perched	–	sat
westerly sun	–	setting sun
ruminated	–	thought
siphoned	–	to remove fuel with a bent tube
stole up	–	approach quietly
wriggled in	–	cuddled close

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:**

**1. How is Kritam described by the author? (2)**

**Ans:** According to the author, Kritam is probably the tiniest village out of seven hundred thousand villages that dot the map of India. This village is so small that it can be only indicated by a microscopic dot on the district survey map.

**2. Is the name of the village synonymous to the size of the village? Justify. (2)**

**Ans:** No, the name of the village is not synonymous to the size of the village. The grandiose name 'Kritam' in Tamil means 'coronet' or a 'crown' whereas the village just consisted of less than thirty houses.

**3. Describe the houses in Kritam. (4)**

**Ans:** The village had less than thirty houses and only one of them was built with brick and cement. This house, painted in yellow and blue, had gorgeous carvings of gods and

gargoyles on its balustrade. It was known as the Big House. The other houses, distributed in four streets, were generally of bamboo thatch, straw, mud and other unspecified material.

**4. What was Muni's routine in his prosperous days? (3)**

**Ans:** In his prosperous days, Muni's routine was to sally forth a flock of forty sheep and goats every morning to the highway, a couple of miles away. He would carry a crook at the end of a bamboo pole to snap foliage from the avenue trees to feed his flock. On reaching near a clay statue of a horse, he would sit on the pedestal while his cattle grazed around.

**5. What would Muni's wife cook for breakfast and lunch? (2)**

**Ans:** Muni's wife would boil water in a mud pot, throw into it a handful of millet flour, add salt and give him his first nourishment for the day that is the breakfast. As for lunch, she would cook the same millet into a little ball which he would swallow with a raw onion at midday.

**6. What had happened to Muni's fortunes? (3)**

**Ans:** Muni's fortunes had gradually declined in an unnoticed way. He had a flock of forty sheep and goats which had drastically reduced to just two goats. These goats were tethered to the trunk of a drumstick tree that grew in front of his house.

**7. Why did Muni feel a sense of triumph? (2)**

**Ans:** On shaking the drumstick tree that grew near his own house, Muni acquired six drumsticks which normally he wouldn't. Hence, Muni felt a sense of triumph.

**8. Why does Muni's wife call 'chewing drumstick out of sauce' as an unholy craving? (3)**

**Ans:** When Muni told his wife that he was tired of eating drumstick leaves and he had a desire to chew the drumstick out of sauce, his wife taunted him. She said that he had only four teeth in his jaw. She said so because in that acute poverty he wanted the luxury of eating the drumsticks out of sauce.

**9. Why does Muni's wife agree to satisfy 'his unholy craving'? What are the ingredients she tells him to get? (3)**

**Ans:** Muni's wife agrees to satisfy 'his unholy craving' of chewing drumsticks out of sauce, as she thinks he wouldn't be alive the next year due to his old age. She tells him to buy a measure of rice or millet, dhall, chilly, curry leaves, mustard, coriander, gingelly oil and one large potato.

**10. What happened at the shop in the third street? (4)**

**Ans:** Muni sat on an upturned case below the platform of the shop. But the shop man paid no attention to him. Muni tried diverting his attention by coughing, sneezing and clearing his throat until the shop man then asked him irritatingly if anything ailed him.

**11. How did Muni react when the shop man called him a 'young man'? Why? (3)**

**Ans:** Muni laughed inordinately on being called 'a young man'. He did so to please the shop man because the shop man would like his sense of humour to be appreciated. By thus humouring the shop man, Muni would always ask for one or two items of food, promising repayment later.

**12. Would the shop man always give in to the demands of Muni? (2)**

**Ans:** No, the shop man would not always give in to the demands of Muni. Some days when the shop man was in a good mood he would submit but sometimes he would lose his temper suddenly and bark at Muni for daring to ask for credit.

**13. Did the shop man give things on credit to Muni? What did Muni say? (2)**

**Ans:** No, the shop man asked him if he had got five rupees and a quarter to pay off an ancient debt. Muni told him that he would pay the entire sum on the first of the next month.

**14. How was Muni supposed to arrange for the money? How had he calculated his age? (2)**

**Ans:** Muni told the shop man that his daughter would be sending him money on account of his fiftieth birthday. He calculated his age from the time of the great famine when he stood as high as the parapet around the village well.

**15. According to the narrator, which calculation would not be accurate nowadays? (2)**

**Ans:** Muni had calculated his age from the time of the great famine. Calculating age in this manner would not be accurate with so many famines occurring nowadays.

**16. Whose presence encouraged the shop man ? Why? (3)**

**Ans:** The shop man felt encouraged to see many customers standing around to watch and comment on the argument between the two. He wanted to show his authority and superiority over Muni in front of the other customers.

**17. Why did Muni decide to move off, unobtrusively? (2)**

**Ans:** Muni realised that the shop man would not give him anything. Moreover, the shop man insulted Muni in front of everyone so he decided to move off unobtrusively.

**18. Why did Muni fling himself to a corner of his house? (3)**

**Ans:** Muni was tired from the fatigue of his visit to the shop. The shop was in the third street and his house was at the end of the fourth street. This short distance visit made him tired which shows that he was old and weak due to extreme poverty.

**19. What did Muni's wife tell him on not getting the stuff? (3)**

**Ans:** Muni's wife told him that he would not be getting any sauce or anything else as there wasn't anything to prepare. He would have to fast till the evening which would be good for him. She told him to leave the house with the goats and not be back till the sun was down.

**20. Why was it better for Muni to obey his wife? How would she conjure some food for him? (4)**

**Ans:** It was better for Muni to obey his wife and he knew she would somehow conjure up some food for him in the evening. Only he must be careful not to argue and irritate her. Her temper was undependable in the morning but improved by evening time. She was sure to go out and work- grind corn in the Big House, sweep or scrub somewhere and earn enough to buy foodstuff and keep a dinner ready for him in the evening.

**21. How did Muni pass through the village after being rebuffed by the shop man? Why? (3)**

**Ans:** Muni passed through the village with his head bowed in thought. He did not want to look at anyone or be accosted due to the embarrassment at the shop. A couple of cronies lounging in the temple corridor hailed him, but he ignored their call.

**22. According to Muni, what happens at the age of seventy? About whom does he think? Which social practice is brought about by the writer? (4)**

**Ans:** According to Muni, at the age of seventy, one only waits to be summoned by God. He wondered what would happen to his wife when he would die as she would be all alone. They had been together since the time he was ten and she was eight and they had no children. The social practice of child marriage is brought about by the writer.

**23. What was the advantage of sitting on the pedestal for the whole day? How would Muni feel? (3)**

**Ans:** The advantage of sitting on the pedestal for the whole day was to watch the highway and see the lorries and buses pass through to the hills. This would give him a sense of belonging to a larger world. He would also lift his head and look up only on reaching the outskirts.

**24. What would Muni do the whole day as his goats meandered? (3)**

**Ans:** Muni would sit at the pedestal of the statue the whole day, as his goats meandered. The pedestal was broad enough for him to move around as the sun travelled up. He would crouch under the belly of the horse for shade if the sun would be up.

**25. Describe the horse and the warrior. (4)**

**Ans:** The horse which was nearly life-size was baked, burnt and brightly coloured. It was moulded out of clay. It reared its head proudly and pranced its forelegs in the air. It also flourished its tail in a loop. The horse was said to have been as white as a dhobi-washed sheet, and had had on its back a cover of pure brocade of red and black lace. The warrior stood in front of the horse. It had scythe-like mustachios, bulging eyes and aquiline nose. There was a multi-coloured sash around the waist of the warrior.

**26. Which instances show that nobody actually remembered the splendour of the horse? (3)**

**Ans:** Nobody in the village remembered the splendour of the horse as no one noticed its existence. Even Muni who spent all his waking hours at the foot, never bothered to look up. It was even untouched by the vandals of the village.

**27. How would the vandals spoil the public place? (2)**

**Ans:** The vandals would gash tree trunks with knives and try to topple off milestones. They would also inscribe lewd designs on the wall.

**28. What thought dawned upon Muni when he saw the sun had tilted westward? Why? (3)**

**Ans:** When Muni saw the sun had tilted westward, it dawned upon him that it was not yet time to go back home. If he went too early his wife would have no food for him. He realised that he must give her time to cool off her temper and feel sympathetic. Only then she would scrounge and manage to get some food.

**29. Why was he not intrigued by the novelty of new vehicles? (2)**

**Ans:** He was not intrigued by the novelty of new vehicles as of late work was going on at the source of the river on the mountain and an assortment of people and traffic went past him. Thus, he took all of this casually.

**30. Was he intrigued when he saw the new sort of vehicle? (3)**

**Ans:** Yes, he was intrigued when he saw the new sort of vehicle coming down at full speed as it looked like both a motor car and a bus. When he observed the yellow vehicle, he wondered how he would describe it to his wife.



**31. What happened when the vehicle sputtered and stopped in front of Muni? (3)**

**Ans:** When the vehicle sputtered and stopped in front of Muni, a red-faced foreigner got down and went around it. He stooped looking and poking under the vehicle. Then he straightened himself up, looked at the dashboard and approached Muni.

**32. What did the red-faced foreigner ask Muni? Why did he not complete his question? (3)**

**Ans:** The red-faced foreigner asked Muni if there was any gas-station nearby or if he would have to wait for another car. Suddenly, his eyes fell upon the clay statue and he exclaimed 'marvellous', without completing his question.

**33. How did Muni react when the red-faced foreigner saw the horse? (3)**

**Ans:** The red-faced foreigner saw the horse and without completing his statement he exclaimed 'Marvellous'. Muni felt like getting up and running away, but he cursed his age. He could not readily put his limbs into action.

**34. Why did Muni want to run away on seeing the red-faced foreigner? (3)**

**Ans:** Muni wanted to run away on seeing the red-faced foreigner as he wore khaki clothes and was evidently a policeman or a soldier. Muni did not want to be questioned by him about the murder that had taken place and since he didn't understand what he was asking, Muni wanted to run away.

**35. What did Muni do when the red-faced foreigner said 'Marvellous' the second time? (2)**

**Ans:** When the red-faced foreigner said 'Marvellous' the second time, Muni sat frozen for a while and then fidgeted and tried to edge away.

**36. How did Muni respond after he spoke the English expressions that he knew? (3)**

**Ans:** After having finished the English expressions that he knew, Muni started telling the red-faced foreigner that those two goats were his and one can gainsay it. He remarked that his village was full of slanderers and they wouldn't even hesitate to say that what belongs to one doesn't actually belong to him.

**37. Why did the foreigner faithfully look in the direction indicated by Muni's fingers? (4)**

**Ans:** The foreigner had asked Muni if he knew any gas station nearby as his vehicle had run out of fuel. Muni, after having exhausted his English expressions, answered non-specific which the foreigner did not understand. He assumed it to be the answer to his question. The foreigner faithfully looked in the direction indicated by Muni's fingers as he thought Muni was giving him directions to the gas- station.

**38. What did the foreigner see when he looked in the direction indicated by Muni's fingers? What did he do next? (3)**

**Ans:** The foreigner saw two goats and the rocks in the direction indicated by Muni's fingers. The foreigner was puzzled as he wanted to know where a gas station was. He took out his silver cigarette case and lit a cigarette.

**39. Did the foreigner offer a cigarette to Muni? How did Muni react? Why? (3)**

**Ans:** Yes, the foreigner offered a cigarette to Muni suddenly remembering the courtesies of the season. Muni received it with surprise after saying the only two words he knew in English since he hadn't had a smoke from anyone since many years.

**40. What happened when the foreigner offered a light to Muni? Why? (3)**

**Ans:** When the foreigner offered a light to Muni by flicking the lighter open, Muni felt confused. As he had never seen how a lighter works, he blew on it and put it out.

**41. How did 'the other' react when Muni put out the flame? (2)**

**Ans:** 'The other' i.e. the foreigner was puzzled but undaunted. He flourished his lighter, presented it again and lit Muni's cigarette.

**42. Was Muni a regular smoker? Give substantial evidence from the story. (4)**

**Ans:** No, Muni wasn't a regular smoker. He had not smoked since many years. Many years ago the shop man had given him a cigarette on credit. When the foreigner lit the cigarette, Muni took a deep puff and started coughing. Though it was pleasant, the effect was so racking that he had tears in his eyes. His head reeled due to its effect.

**43. What did Muni understand about the foreigner? What did he analyse about the situation? (2)**

**Ans:** Muni understood that the man was not an Inquisitor of any kind yet he remained wary. He realised that he did not need to run away from a man who gave him such a potent smoke.

**44. What happened when the foreigner presented his card to Muni? (4)**

**Ans:** When the foreigner presented his card to Muni, Muni shrank away as he felt the foreigner was presenting a warrant and wanted to arrest him. His mind warned him to be aware of khaki, take all the cigarettes or whatever is offered but not to get caught. Muni wished he shouldn't have been seventy as he wanted to run away.

**45. According to Muni, what happens at the age of seventy? How did he go on ? (3)**

**Ans:** According to Muni, at the age of seventy, one didn't run but would surrender to whatever came. He knew he could only ward off trouble by talking and so he went on in the purest form of Tamil for which Kritam was famous.

**46. What did Muni tell the foreigner in the chaste form of Tamil? (3)**

**Ans:** Muni told the foreigner a body had been found mutilated and thrown under a tamarind tree at the border between Kritam and Kuppam. He also added that he knew nothing of the murder. He further said that as God sees everything the murderer will not escape.

**47. What can we imply about relations between people of Kritam and Kuppam? (3)**

**Ans:** We can imply that the relations between people of Kritam and Kuppam are not cordial. According to Muni, people of Kuppam can go to any extent and will not stop at anything. He was also sure that his village has always had a clean record and the culprit must be definitely from the other village.

**48. When the foreigner told Muni that he was sure Muni knows when the horse was made, what did Muni reply? Why? (4)**

**Ans:** As the foreigner smiled ingratiatingly, Muni reacted to the relaxed atmosphere by smiling himself. He pleaded that he knew nothing and he promised to catch the culprit and bury him up to his neck in a coconut pit if the culprit tried to escape. He wanted to assure the foreigner that he had no hand in the murder and would go to any extent to catch the real culprit.

**49. What impression had the foreigner made about Muni's lack of communication in English? What contrasting image did he have about natives in the country? (3)**

**Ans:** As Muni wouldn't communicate in English, the foreigner assumed it to be due to some religious or spiritual scruples against the English language. He said that he had gotten along with English everywhere in the country. Everyone seemed to know the language however Muni didn't speak in English.

**50. Why did the foreigner still go ahead with English as a language to communicate? (3)**

**Ans:** The foreigner had asked Muni if he had any religious or spiritual scruples against English. When Muni made some indistinct sounds in his throat and shook his head, the foreigner assumed that there weren't any religious or spiritual scruples for not communicating in English. Feeling encouraged, the foreigner continued to explain in English.

**51. What do we learn about the foreigner when he asked about religious limitations in speaking a particular language? (2)**

**Ans:** We understand that the foreigner was sensitive to people's religious sentiments and he didn't want to hurt Muni. Also, since he had already toured around the country he knew that Indians were religious and the foreigner respected this aspect of the Indian culture.

**52. What had happened in 'the last August' with the foreigner in his own country?(4)**

**Ans:** According to the foreigner, in 'the last August', they had the hottest summer in history and he was working in shirt-sleeves in his office on the fortieth floor of the Empire State Building. One day, there was a power cut and he was stuck for four hours, without any elevator or air-conditioning.

**53. How did the incident affect the foreigner? What did he decide to do? Why? (3)**

**Ans:** The experience at the Empire State Building of having to stay for four hours without electricity in the hottest summer affected him. That's when he decided to explore other civilisations and learn how other people lived in extremity without air conditioning or even electricity in the worst of the climatic conditions.

**54. Who had accompanied the foreigner to India? When did he visit India? Why? (3)**

**Ans:** The foreigner's wife, Ruth, had accompanied him to India. They had come to visit India in winter season. For the Americans, winter in India is more convenient as compared to any other season. The cooler climate makes it more adaptable for them.

**55. Did his wife travel with him everywhere? Why? (2)**

**Ans:** No, his wife didn't travel with him everywhere but chose to wait back at Srinagar. It was probably because she wasn't keen to explore different civilisations and wanted to wait back at the hill-station to avoid the heat.

**56. Which superstition did the villagers of Kritam believe in, with respect to thieves? According to Muni, what would they do with the thief? (3)**

**Ans:** The people of Kritam believed that the robber will be caught when the priest of their village at the temple will be able to see the face of the thief in the camphor flame. According to Muni, once the thief is caught he would be given a harsh punishment. He shows this by gesturing with his hands a perfect mincing of meat.

**57. What did the foreigner interpret Muni's gesture of 'mincing of meat'? (2)**

**Ans:** On seeing Muni's gesture of 'mincing of meat', the foreigner interpreted that Muni wanted to chop something and he was stopping Muni from doing so.

**58. What did the foreigner suggest about chopping of wood? Why? (3)**

**Ans:** The foreigner suggested that he could chop wood if Muni handed over the axe to him. Back in his country, it was a hobby which he liked. He said that they would get a lot of driftwood along the backwater near his house and on Sundays he would do nothing but chop wood for the fireplace.

**59. Why would the foreigner feel different when he would see fire at the fireplace? What else would he add to the fire? (2)**

**Ans:** The foreigner would feel a sense of accomplishment, whenever he would see fire at the fireplace and that's why he smiled at its reference. He would also add all the sections of the Sunday New York Times to get a fire started.

**60. What was the reason behind using the newspaper to get a fire started? Why would the foreigner use the Sunday newspaper? (3)**

**Ans:** Paper catches fire faster than wood and that was the reason behind using the newspaper to get a fire started. The Sunday newspaper is the fattest as it includes additional supplements. So, the foreigner would use the Sunday newspaper.

**61. When did finally Muni understand the reference made to the horse? (2)**

**Ans:** The foreigner pinioned Muni's back to the horse. He asked him if the statue was his and if he wanted to sell it to him. That's when Muni understood the reference made to the horse.

**62. How did Muni respond after the reference was made to the horse? How did the foreigner respond? (3)**

**Ans:** After having made the reference to the horse, Muni thought for a second and responded in his own language that he was an urchin when he heard his grandfather explaining about the horse and the warrior. Muni was trying to further mention how the story passed on from one generation to another when the foreigner interrupted him. He interrupted and said that he was ready to give a good price for the horse.

**63. What made the foreigner believe that the horse belonged to Muni? (2)**

**Ans:** The foreigner thought that the horse belonged to Muni by the way he sat on its pedestal. The foreigner had observed how other souvenir sellers in the country presided over their wares.

**64. What inference did Muni make following the man's eyes and pointing fingers?(2)**

**Ans:** Following the man's eyes and pointing fingers, Muni inferred dimly that the subject matter and the theme of their conversation was not of the mutilated body. The topic of the murder had been abandoned at least for time being.

**65. Mention what aspect of Muni's speech intrigued the foreigner. Why? (3)**

**Ans:** Although the foreigner did not understand Muni's language, the Tamil that Muni spoke was stimulating even as pure sound. The foreigner listened with fascination and wished he had a tape-recorder. Every word he uttered would give him a kick and the language was music to his ears.

**66. Which aspect of Muni's talks was disliked by the foreigner? Why? (2)**

**Ans:** The foreigner mentioned that he wasn't interested in the sales talk. He appreciated the object (the horse) so much that he didn't want any explanation about its points.

**67. How is the issue of caste discrimination brought out in the story? (2)**

**Ans:** Muni mentions how he never went to school and only children belonging to Brahmin community were allowed. Kids of his community had to go out and work in the fields from morning till night, from sowing to harvest time.

**68. What would Muni and his community do when Pongal came? What was its outcome? (2)**

**Ans:** When Pongal came Muni and his community would cut harvest after which his father allowed him to go and play with others at the tank. As he was never sent to school, Muni says that he didn't understand the Parangi language.

**69. Mention the contrast in Muni's reaction on being offered a cigarette on two occasions. (4)**

**Ans:** When Muni was offered a cigarette on the first occasion, he took it with surprise as he was offered one after a very long time. On the first puff itself, Muni coughed and had tears in his eyes. Whereas, the second time, Muni smoked with ease and decided to stay on if the fellow was going to be so good as to keep up his cigarette supply.

**70. What mythological information does Muni provide about the horse? (4)**

**Ans:** Muni narrates the story of the horse and the warrior. He says that the horse is their guardian and it means death to their adversaries. At the end of Kali Yuga, the world and the other worlds will be destroyed and the Redeemer will come in the shape of a horse called 'Kalki'. The horse will come to life and gallop and trample down all bad men.

**71. To what extent was the foreigner fascinated about the horse? Mention with substantial evidence from the story. (4)**

**Ans:** The foreigner was fascinated about the horse to a great extent. He assured Muni that the horse will have the best home in U.S.A. He was ready to push away the book case though he was a voracious reader and a member of five book clubs. He was willing to shift the pile of the choice and bonus volumes which occupied place in his living room to make space for the horse. He knew that his wife would disapprove of the same but he would convince her.

**72. What had the pundit told at the temple about the horse? (4)**

**Ans:** The pundit discoursed at the temple how the oceans are going to close over the earth in a huge wave and swallow everyone. The horse would then grow bigger than the

biggest wave and carry on its back only the good people and kick into the floods the evil ones.

**73. How does the foreigner understand that a question had been asked to him? What was the question and what did he respond? (3)**

**Ans:** The foreigner understood by the tone of the other that a question was being asked. The foreigner not knowing what exactly Muni had asked, said that he was a modest millionaire and his trade was coffee.

**74. Which was the only word that Muni had understood in English? What did Muni suggest about it? How had he come to know about it? (3)**

**Ans:** The only word that Muni had understood in English was 'kapi' (coffee), it being their staple beverage. Muni tells the foreigner that if he wished to have 'kapi' he can drive further to the next town. They have Friday market and there they open kapi-otels. He had come to know about it as he had learnt it from passers-by.

**75. What information does the foreigner provide about his business to Muni? (3)**

**Ans:** The foreigner says that he was a modest millionaire and his trade is coffee. Currently, he can't afford to buy more than sixty minutes of T.V. time in a month which comes to two minutes of advertisement a day. Though in course of time, he hopes to be able to sponsor a one hour show regularly if their sales graph continues to go up.

**76. How much was the foreigner willing to pay for the horse? Why was he not ready to carry the warrior? (2)**

**Ans:** The foreigner was willing to pay one hundred rupees for the horse. He was not ready to carry the whiskered soldier as he had no space for him.

**77. What plans had the foreigner made to carry the horse? What precautions was he willing to take to avoid any damage to the horse? (3)**

**Ans:** The foreigner decided to cancel his air ticket and take a boat home. Ruth, his wife, would go by air if she wished to. But he would go with the horse and keep him in his cabin all the way if necessary. The foreigner was willing to pad it with straw to avoid any kind of damage to the horse.

**78. How was the foreigner going to carry the horse before he takes it overseas? (2)**

**Ans:** The foreigner was going to push the seat of his station wagon back to accommodate the horse. He asked Muni for his help so that together they could lift the horse from its pedestal after picking out the cement at the joints.

**79. Why was there no need to carry on a guessing game at the meaning of words?(3)**

**Ans:** According to Muni, the foreigner in khaki clothes was not any Inquisitor who had come to inquire about the murder. On the other hand, the foreigner was assured that Muni would sell the horse to him only. As the mutual mystification was complete, there wasn't any need to carry on a guessing game at the meaning of words.

**80. Why did Muni still carry on with the conversation? What did he say? (3)**

**Ans:** Muni carried on with the conversation in a spirit of balancing off the credits and debits of conversational exchange and spoke in order to be on the credit side. Muni was touched by a simple gesture made by the foreigner. He believed that the foreigner had many children as he was a good man and waited to stay back to talk to him.

**81. What kind of a comic situation arose between the foreigner and Muni on being asked about the number of children? (3)**

**Ans:** Muni asked the foreigner how many children he had. Thinking he asked about the money that he was willing to pay for the horse, he replied a hundred. This misinterpretation of words caused a comic situation between the foreigner and Muni.

**82. Which social issue is highlighted at the mention of children? (2)**

**Ans:** When the foreigner replies the number of children he has, Muni feels encouraged and further asks how many of them are girls and boys. The social issue of dowry is prevalent here when he asks if it was difficult for him to find a son-in-law in his country too.

**83. What was Muni's first reaction on seeing the hundred rupee note? Why? (2)**

**Ans:** Muni, on seeing the hundred rupee note, peered closely at the currency as he had never seen the like of it in his life. He knew the five and ten rupee notes by its colours although in somebody else's hands.

**84. Give a few instances to highlight Muni's financial condition. (4)**

**Ans:** Muni was extremely poor as he would have drumstick leaves every day for his meal. Those leaves were taken down from the tree that was just outside his house. Muni had to lie for not having money to buy stuff or clear an ancient debt at the shop. Muni had not had a smoke since a long time. This shows that he couldn't afford to buy even a cigarette or a bidi. Muni's earning would only be in coppers and nickels and he had never seen a hundred rupee note. A five or a ten-rupee note was known to him only due to its colour and he had seen in somebody else's hand.

**85. Did Muni recognise the hundred rupee note? What did he tell the foreigner? (3)**

**Ans:** No, Muni did not recognise the hundred rupee note as he laughed to himself at the notion of anyone coming to him for changing a thousand or ten-thousand-rupee note.



He told the foreigner that if he needed change he would have to ask their village headman who was a money-lender too.

**86. Was the headman of Kritam village a corrupt man according to Muni? Explain.(3)**

**Ans:** Yes, the headman of Kritam village was a corrupt. He could change even a lakh of rupees in gold sovereigns. One could actually dig the floor of his puja room and find a hoard of money there. To hide this, he would disguise himself in rags just to mislead the public.

**87. Why did the village headman and Muni have a tiff? (3)**

**Ans:** Muni believed that the village headman would go mad at the sight of him. According to Muni, it was someone else who had taken away his pumpkins along with the creeper and blamed Muni and his goats for the same. That resulted in Muni not sending his goats anywhere close to his farms.

**88. What were the goats doing near the rocks? How did the foreigner show interest in the pets? How did Muni interpret this action? (4)**

**Ans:** The goats were nosing about, attempting to wrest nutrition from minute greenery peeping out of rock and dry earth. The foreigner followed Muni's look and decided that it would be courteous to show interest in the pets. He stroked their backs with a lot of well-mannered attention. Muni thought that the foreigner was interested in his goats.

**89. Was Muni really happy to give away his goats? What had he planned to do? (4)**

**Ans:** Yes, Muni was really happy to give away his goats. For him it was his dream of a lifetime. He understood that the red man was actually making an offer for the goats. He had reared the goats up in the hope of selling them some day and with the capital, he wanted to open a small shop on that very spot.

**90. Describe the shop that Muni dreamt of setting up. (3)**

**Ans:** Muni had often dreamt how he would put up a thatched roof, spread a gunny sack out on the ground and display on it fried nuts and coloured sweets and green coconut for the thirsty and famished travellers.

**91. What did the foreigner do after he shook Muni's hand? Why? (2)**

**Ans:** The foreigner placed one hundred rupees in tens on Muni's left palm. He gave a change so he could either keep the money for himself or share it with his partner if there was one.

**92. Why was the money given to Muni? What did Muni think? Why did the confusion take place? (3)**

**Ans:** The foreigner gave the money to Muni as a payment for the horse. Whereas, Muni thought that the hundred rupees were meant for the two goats. This confusion had taken place as none of the parties understood the language of the other.

**93. What advice does Muni give, regarding the transportation of the two goats? What does he do then? (3)**

**Ans:** Muni advises the foreigner to take the goats after he gets out of sight. It was because the goats were extremely loyal to Muni and they would follow him even to the path of death. On saying this, Muni laughs at his own joke, salutes, turns round and begins to leave.

**94. What does the foreigner think about Muni's departure? Who comes as the foreigner waits? Does he receive any help? (4)**

**Ans:** The foreigner feels that Muni leaves to fetch some help to lift off the horse and thus decides to wait back. Yes, he receives help from the truck that came downhill. He stops the truck and asks a few men to detach the horse from its pedestal and place it in his station wagon. He gives them five rupees each and for a further payment, they siphon off gas from the truck and help him to start the engine.

**95. Where does Muni go after he sees the foreigner off? What happens when he reaches home? (3)**

**Ans:** Muni hurries homeward with the cash securely tucked away at his waist in his dhoti. He shuts the street door and displays the money. His wife snatches the notes and counts them by the glow of the fire. She asks him if he had been stealing.

**96. How does Muni respond to his wife's suspicion? Who interrupts the tete a tete of the couple? (3)**

**Ans:** Muni replies that he has sold their goats to a red-faced man and that man was absolutely crazy to have them. He further tells her that the money was given by that foreigner who also carried the goats off in his motor car. No sooner does Muni finish his speech than he hears the bleating of the same goats outside.

**97. What does Muni tell the goats? How do the goats respond? (3)**

**Ans:** On seeing the same goats outside his house, Muni mutters a great curse and seizes one by its ears. He asks the goat why they have come back as they now belonged to the foreigner. The first goat only wriggled in his grip. When Muni asks the same question to the other one, the goat shook itself off.

**98. Does Muni's wife believe him? Justify. (4)**

**Ans:** No, Muni's wife doesn't believe in what Muni says. She thinks that he had robbed someone and the police would come that night and would break his bones. And in that case, she would go away to her parents.

**99. Knowledge and Ignorance are very well juxtaposed in the story. (4)**

**Ans:** Muni belonged to lower class and never had formal education. He was born at a time when only Brahmins could attend school. Muni didn't even know his age and probably had not travelled beyond his village. He would still have 'a sense of belonging to a larger world' whenever he would see the vehicles pass by on the highway. The only knowledge Muni had, was about the mythologies and religion. On the other hand, the American has had full exposure to the American education. He has a room full of books and is a member of many book clubs. But only when he experiences power failure in his office building, he decides to look at other civilisations. Thus the knowledge and ignorance of both Muni and the foreigner are well juxtaposed in the story.

**100. Give four examples to show how language is a barrier in the story. (4)**

**Ans:** When the American exclaims 'Marvellous' on seeing the statue of the horse, Muni feels like running away as he doesn't understand the comment. After a while, the American asks Muni how he was, to which Muni replies 'Yes, No'; the only two English expressions that he had learnt. The foreigner presents his card in front of Muni and because he doesn't understand English, Muni takes it to be a warrant card and feels that the man has come to arrest him. When Muni starts explaining the happening of the murder, the foreigner listens to everything attentively though he understands nothing.

**101. Which language does Muni refer to as Parangi ? Can you guess the origin of the word ? (2)**

**Ans:** English is the language that Muni refers to as Parangi. The origin of this word is 'firangi' which means 'a foreigner.'

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