Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Notes : To Kill a Mockingbird- Chapter 24

Answer the following :

1. **What was the occasion mentioned in this chapter? Where was it held? What was being discussed ?**

Ans: The occasion was a Missionary tea at the Finches. The women discussed the plight of the Mruna people , a non –Christian group in Africa.

1. **Who were the Mrunas?**

Ans: The Mrunas were a non-Christian group of Africa who are said to live in extreme poverty ( squalor). They followed extreme fanatic rituals specially for women and adolescents.

1. **What did the women do immediately after discussing the plight of the Mrunas? What does this show?**

Ans: Immediately after discussing the plight of the Mrunas and expressing their sympathies, the women adjourned for refreshments. This shows that all of it was a farce and nobody really cared for the poor.

1. **How does Miss Maudie come to Scout’s rescue when the other women made fun of her?**

Ans: In the midst of the missionary tea party, Miss Stephanie mockingly asked if she would become a lawyer as she had already started going to the court. Without even waiting for an answer from Scout, the women started laughing at her. Miss Maudie just touched Scout’s hand to comfort her as she was getting agitated. Miss Stephanie continued her attack by telling Scout that if she wanted to be a lady she must wear dresses more often. Immediately Miss Maudies grip on her hand tightened and Scout felt its warmth and was quiet.

1. **What does Miss Merriweather say to Jean regarding sin and squalor? Who else was she speaking about and who did Jean think she was speaking about?**

Ans: Mrs Merriweather told Jean that she was lucky to be a Christian whereas the non-Christians like the Mrunas lived in sin and squalor. She then spoke about forgiving and forgetting ‘her’ and that the church should help ‘her’ lead a Christian life, Scout thought she was referring to Mayella Ewell but Mrs Merry was actually referring to Tom’s wife, Helen.

1. **What were Mrs Merriweather’s comments about the coloured maidservants?**

Ans: Mrs Merriweather said that after Tom’s trial the coloured maidservants had been sulking and it was very distracting to see them in such a state when they are working in their homes. It ruined the day to have such sulky darky women in their kitchens. She then said that she spoke to her maid Sophy telling her that Jesus Christ never went grumbling and complaining. That is when the maid changed her mood.

1. **What subtle comments did Miss Merriweather make about Atticus’ support to the blacks? Who intervened to support Atticus?**

Ans: Miss Merriweather indirectly targeted Atticus Finch by saying that there were some good but misguided people in the town of Maycomb who thought they were doing right but in reality were not. Miss Maudie intervened by asking if his ( Atticus’) food did not stick while going down. She referred to the food that Atticus had purchased for the occasion and how Mrs Merriweather can enjoy that if she does not approve of Atticus’ defense of Tom.

1. **What news does Atticus bring about Tom Robinson and what does he explain about what Tom has done?**

Ans: Atticus interrupts Aunt Alexandra’s missionary circle to ask Calpurnia if she could take him to see Helen Robinson. Atticus proceeds to tell Calpurnia, Miss Maudie, Aunt Alexandra and Scout that Tom has been shot dead. He explains that during the inmates’ exercise period, Tom charged towards the fence and began climbing it. After being instructed to stop, the prison guards ended up shooting Tom Robinson seventeen times killing him.

1. **What was Aunt Alexandra’s reaction on hearing the news of Tom’s death?**

Ans: When Aunt Alexandra heard about the reaction of Tom’s death, she clearly shows sympathy towards Tom but is more concerned about her brother. She was wishing that all of that would end soon as it was affecting Atticus a great deal.