

26/10/23

CHAPTER - 6

POETS AND PANCAKES

- ASOKAMITRAN

★ QUESTION - ANSWERS

Q1) What does the writer mean by 'the fiery misery' of those subjected to make-up?

Ans. By 'the fiery misery', the writer means the pain and trouble caused by the heat produced by so many lights in the make up room. Those subjected to makeup had to face bright light and a lot of heat there.

Q2) What is the example of national integration that the author refers to?

Ans. The head of the makeup department was earlier a Bengali. He was succeeded by a Maharashtrian, a Madras Indian Christian and Anglo-Burmese and the local Tamils. Thus, there were persons belonging to different states, religions and using different languages.

Q3) What work did the 'office boy' do in the Gemini Studios? Why did he join the studios? Why was he disappointed?

Ans. The office boy make up the players who played the crowd. On the days of crowd shooting, he mixed his paint in a very big vessel and applied quickly. He had joined the studio in the hope of becoming a star actor or a top screen writer, director or lyrics writer. He was disappointed because he failed to do so and remained only a boy.

Q4) Why did the author appear to be doing nothing at the studios?

Ans. The author's duty was to cut newspaper clippings on a wide variety of subjects and store them in files. Many of these had to be

written out in hand. The onlookers noticed him tearing up news papers.

Q5.) Why was the office boy frustrated? Who did he show his anger on?

Ans. The office boy was frustrated because in spite of a big opening, he remained only an office boy. He had a good formal education and a bit of poet too. But his great literary talent was being allowed to go waste. He showed his anger on Kothamangalam Subbu.

Q6.) Who was Subbu's principal?

Ans. S.S. Vasan

Q7.) Subbu is described as a many-sided genius. List four of his special abilities.

- Ans.
- (i) Subbu had the ability to look cheerful at all times.
 - (ii) His sense of loyalty made him turn his entire creativity to his principal's advantage. Film-making was quite easy with Subbu around.
 - (iii) He was literary inclined too - a poet and a novelist. He was an amazing actor.
 - (iv) He had a charitable and loving nature.

Q8.) Why was the legal adviser referred to as the opposite by others?

Ans. The lawyer was in the story department. He was officially known as the legal adviser. However his actions did nobody any good. He had brought to an end the career of a promising young address.

Q9.) What made the lawyer stand out from the others at Gemini Studios?

Ans. It was a lawyer's address that made him stand out from others.

at Gemini Studios. He wore a pant and tie and sometimes a coat also. Others put on a khadi dhoti with white khadi shirt. These looked like a uniform.

Q10.) Did the people at Gemini Studios have any particular political affiliations?

Ans. The people at Gemini Studios did not have any particular political affiliations. The common political notions of the day managed to influence them but that was limited to wearing khadi and admiring the Gandhian philosophy. They were averse to the term 'Communism' but had only an erroneous understanding of the concept.

Q11.) Why was the Moral Rearmament Army welcomed at the Studios?

Ans. The Moral Rearmament Army was a kind of counter movement to international communism. Big bosses of Madras like Mr. Vasan simply paid into their hands.

Q12.) Name one example to show that Gemini Studios was influenced by the plays staged by MRA.

Ans. The plays staged by the MRA greatly influenced Madras and Tamil drama community. For some years almost all Tamil plays had a scene of sunrise and sunset in the manner of 'Jotham Valley' with a bare stage, a white background curtain and a tune played on the flute.

Q13.) Who was the Boss of Gemini Studios?

Ans. S.S. Vasan

Q14.) What caused the lack of communication between the Englishman and

the people at Gemini Studios?

Ans. Most of 600 people at Gemini Studios were Tamil. The Englishman ~~man~~ was addressing them in his own language, in English.

Q15) Why is the Englishman's visit referred to as unexplained mystery?

Ans. During the Englishman speech, no one understood what he was talking about the audience were confused. They did not know what an English poet was doing in a film studio, which made Tamil films.

Q16) Who was the English visitor to the studios?

Ans. The English visitor to the Gemini Studios was Stephen Spender. He was the editor of the Encounter, a British periodical, a famous English poet, essayist and novelist of the twentieth century.

Q17) How did the author discover who the English visitor to the studio was?

Ans. Before investing money in participating in a short story contest organised by an English periodical, The Encounter, the author did a research on the magazine. He went to the British Council Library where, while going through an issue of that periodical, he discovered that its editor was Stephen Spender, the poet that had once visited the studio.

Q18) What does ~~the~~ The God that Failed refer to?

Ans. The God that Failed was a compilation of six essays. In each of the essays, the respective writers described "their journeys into Communism and their disillusioned return".

Q19.) The author has used gentle humour to point out human foibles. Pick out instances of this to show how this serves to make the piece interesting.

Ans. The writer adds a kind of gentle and quirky humor to the story. They make things like makeup artists and pancakes interesting. The way Subbu uses things is really good. He cleverly ~~used~~ uses his principal to solve problems. The office boy's frustration, praise for Gandhi, the adviser's mistake, dislike for communism, and the mystery ground Stephen Spender all have this light-hearted humor.

Q20.) Why was Kothamangalam Subbu considered No. 2 in Gemini Studios?

Ans. Kothamangalam Subbu succeeded in securing the place closest to the Boss by means of flattery. He was not brilliant but a rather cheerful person and exceedingly loyal to The Boss. He offered solutions whenever The Boss was in a fix. Thus, the other employees considered him No. 2 in Gemini Studios.

Q21.) How does the author describe the incongruity of an English poet addressing the audience at Gemini Studios?

Ans. The English poet was addressing the Tamil audience at Gemini Studios in English with a typical provincial accent. He was talking about the thrills and travails of an English poet to a dazed and silent audience. This was the incongruity because his audience could not understand him at all.

Q22.) What do you understand about the author's literary inclinations from the account?

Ans. The author was inclined towards a belief that prose writing was not for geniuses but for patient, persistent people who aren't affected by rejection. He is also quite cautious of submitting his stories to publishers and does his

research before deciding whether or not the effort is ~~worth while~~
worth while.