

21/8/23

CHAPTER-4 THE RATTRAP

- SELMA LAGERLÖF

★ QUESTION-ANSWERS

Q1.) From where did the peddler get the idea of the world being a rattrap?

Ans. The peddler had been thinking of this rattrap when suddenly he was struck by the idea that the whole world was nothing but a big rattrap. It offered riches and joys, shelter and food, heat and clothing in the same manner as a rattrap offered cheese and pork.

Q2.) Why was he amused by this idea?

Ans. His own life was sad and monotonous. He walked from place to place. The world had never been kind to him. During his glooming ploddings, this idea became his favourite pass time. He was amused how the people led themselves be caught in the dangerous ~~the~~ bait.

Q3.) Did the peddler expect the kind of hospitality that he received from the crofter?

Ans. The crofter served him ^{porridge} ~~orange~~ pot, supper and tobacco for his pipe. He also played ~~again~~ game of cards with him till bed time. This hospitality was unexpected as people usually made sour faces when the peddler asked for shelter.

Q4.) Why was the crofter so talkative and friendly with the

peddler?

Ans. The crofter's circumstances and temperament made him so talkative and friendly with peddler, since he had no wife or child. He was happy to get someone to talk in his loneliness.

Q5.) Why did he show the thirty kroner to the peddler?

Ans. The crofter had told the peddler that by supplying his cow's milk, he had received thirty kroner as payment. The peddler seemed to doubt it, so in order to assure his guest of the truth, he showed thirty kroner.

Q6.) Did the peddler respect the confidence reposed in him by the crofter?

Ans. No, the peddler did not respect the confidence reposed in him by the crofter. At the very first opportunity, he smashed window pane, took out the money and hung the leather pouch back in its place.

Q7.) What made the peddler think that he had indeed fallen into a rattrap?

Ans. The peddler realised that he must not walk on the public highway with the stolen money in his pocket. He went into the woods, he kept walking without coming to the end of the wood. Then he realised that he had fallen ^{into} the rattrap.

Q8.) Why did the ironmaster speak kindly to the peddler and invite him home?

Ans. The ironmaster walked closely upto the peddler in the uncertain

reflection from the furnace, he mistook the man as his old regimental comrade Captain von Stahle. He addressed the stranger as his Nils Olof, spoke very kindly and invited him home.

Q9.) Why did the peddler decline the invitation?

Ans. The peddler knew that the ironmaster had mistaken him. Secondly, he had stolen money. Going to the ironmaster's residence would be like ~~entering~~ entering the lion's den. So he declined the invitation.

Q10.) What made the peddler accept Edla Willmansson's invitation?

Ans. ^{Ms.} Edla Willmansson's looked at the peddler and noticed that the man was afraid. She assured him that he would be allowed to leave just as freely as he came. She requested him to stay with them over Christmas Eve. Her friendly manner made the peddler feel confidence in her and accept her invitation.

Q11.) What doubts did Edla have about the peddler?

Ans. As Edla lifted the peddler's hat, he jumped up abruptly and seemed to be quiet frightened. Even her kind looks and purpose of visit failed to calm him. From his fear, she thought that either he had stolen something or he had escaped from jail.

Q12.) When did the ironmaster realise his mistake?

Ans. Next morning, the stranger was clean and well-dressed. He was led to the dining room for breakfast. The ironmaster saw him in broad daylight. It was impossible to mistake him for an old acquaintance. Then the ironmaster realised his mistake

and threatened to call the sheriff.

Q13.) What did the peddler say in his defence when it was clear that he was not the person the ironmaster had thought he was?

Ans. The peddler explained that he had not tried to pretend as his ^{acquaintance} ~~acquaintance~~. He was not at fault. All along, he had maintained that he was a poor trader. No harm had been done by his stay. He was willing to put on his rags again and go away.

Q14.) Why did Edla still entertain the peddler even after she knew the truth about him?

Ans. Edla did not think it proper on their part to chase away a human being whom they had asked to come to their house and had promised him Christmas cheer. She understood the reality of the peddler's life and wanted him to enjoy a day of peace with them.

Q15.) Why was Edla happy to see the gift led by the peddler?

Ans. As soon as Edla opened the package of the gift, she found a small rat trap with three wrinkled ten ^{Kronor} ~~Kronor~~ notes and a letter addressed to her. The peddler wanted to be nice in return as she had been so nice to him all day long. He didn't want her to be embarrassed at the Christmas by a thief.

Q16.) Why did the peddler sign himself as Captain von Stahle?

Ans. The ~~iron~~ ironmaster has invited the peddler to his house, mistaking him for Captain von Stahle. He was welcomed there.

and looked after as Captain even after the reality became known. The peddler got a chance to redeem himself from dishonest ways by acting as an honourable Captain.

Shah
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