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## VISTAS

## CHAPTER- 4

## THE ENEMY

- PEARL S. BUCK

## ★ QUESTION- ANSWERS

Q1) Who was Dr Sadao? Where was his house?

Ans. Dr Sadao Hoki was an eminent Japanese surgeon and scientist. He had spent eight valuable years of his youth in America to learn all that could be learnt of surgery and medicine there. He was perfecting a discovery which would render wounds entirely clean. Dr Sadao's house was built on rocks well above a narrow beach that was outlined with bent pipes. It was on a spot of the Japanese coast.

Q2) Will Dr Sadao be arrested on the charge of harbouring an enemy?

Ans. Dr Sadao knew that they would be arrested, if they sheltered a white man in their house. The wounded man was a prisoner of war who had escaped with a bullet on his back. Since Japan was at war with America, harbouring an enemy meant being a traitor to Japan. Dr Sadao could be arrested if anyone complained against him and accused him of harbouring an enemy.

Q3) Will Nana help the wounded man and wash him herself?

Ans. The gardener and the cook feared their master's plan to heal the wounded white man, anticipating vengeance. Yumi, the maid, hesitated to wash him, but Nana scolded her and took up the task. With a small, clean towel and steaming water, she cleansed the white man's face and upper body. Yet, she refrained from turning him over.

Q4.) What will Dr Sadao and his wife do with the man?

Ans. Dr. Sadao and Hana informed the servants that they intended to revive the man, aiming to surrender him as a prisoner. Despite recognising the logical choice of returning him to the sea, Dr. Sadao hesitated to involve the police with a wounded man. Instead, he chose to bring the man into his home, performing surgery to ~~remove~~ remove the bullet. They cared for the white man, providing sustenance until he regained strength and could stand on his own.

Q5.) Will Dr Sadao be arrested on the charge of harbouring an enemy?

Ans. It had been a week since Dr. Sadao operated on the injured white man. That morning, the three servants left together. In the afternoon, an official messenger arrived, asking Dr. Sadao to come to the palace immediately because the Old General was in pain again. Hana, fearing an arrest, questioned the messenger. After realising her mistake, she expressed regret. Dr. Sadao, vital to the General, assured him about the white man, securing protection from arrest due to his indispensability.

Q6.) What will Dr Sadao do to get rid of the man?

Ans. Dr. Sadao shared with the Old General about helping the white man. The General promised to send secret assassins to quietly eliminate him. Dr. Sadao kept the partition open, anxiously waiting for three nights with the servants gone, Hana, unfamiliar with such chores, cared for the wounded man but wanted him gone. Stating Tom was well, Dr. Sadao offered to help him escape that night with food and clothes. In Japanese attire, Tom received a flashlight for signals. Dr. Sadao assisted Tom in leaving Japan, suggesting he row to an uninhabited island until a passing Korean fishing boat rescued him. This way, he ~~got~~<sup>not</sup> only got rid of the man but also helped him escape.

Q7.) There are moments in life when we have to make hard choices between our roles as private individuals and as citizens with a sense of national loyalty. Discuss with reference to the story you have just read.

Ans. Dr. Sadao Hoki had a problem when he found an injured white man on the coast near his house. Initially, he thought the man might be a fisherman who got washed ashore. The man had a gunshot wound, and being a skilled doctor, Dr. Sadao decided to treat him. Although Japan was at war with America, he and his wife, Kana, agreed that putting the man back into the sea wasn't practical. Despite considering the risks, Dr. Sadao chose to bring the wounded man into their home. Kana understood the need to give the man to the police to protect their family and Dr. Sadao's position, and he agreed to do so.

Q8.) Dr. Sadao was compelled by his duty as a doctor to help the enemy soldier. What made Kana, his wife, sympathetic to him in the face of open defiance from the domestic staff?

Ans. Dr. Sadao felt duty-bound as a doctor to help the wounded enemy soldier. Kana, his wife, faced resistance from the servants but sympathized with Sadao. Even though she found the injured soldier repulsive, Kana overcame her feelings and assisted her husband. Despite the servants' defiance, Kana supported Sadao's decision, considering their duty above personal discomfort. She believed in her husband's medical duty, and, despite the challenges, cooperated with him to save the wounded man.

Q9.) How would you explain the reluctance of the soldier to leave the shelter of the doctor's home even when he knew he couldn't stay there without risk to the doctor and himself?

Ans. The soldier hesitated to leave Dr. Sadao's shelter despite the risk. Dr. Sadao, uncertain about the soldier's fate, considering handing him over to the police. The soldier noticed the couple's kindness, English proficiency, and care.

When Dr. Sadao spoke to the General, seeking protection for the soldier, the General promised to send assassins to eliminate him. After three nights of waiting, Dr. Sadao decided to help the soldier escape. When informed, the soldier seemed reluctant to leave, knowing the danger for everyone involved. His reluctance stemmed from a desire for self-preservation, trusting that Dr. Sadao and Hana, who had treated him well, would protect him.

Q10) What explains the attitude of the General in the matter of the enemy soldier? Was it human consideration, lack of national loyalty, dereliction of duty or simply self-observation?

Ans. The General's attitude toward the enemy soldier was driven by self-interest rather than human consideration, national loyalty, or duty.

Despite Dr. Sadao's successful operation, the General's concern was solely for his own safety. He suggested quietly eliminating the soldier to protect Dr. Sadao from arrest, revealing a self-absorbed perspective. When the General forgot his promise a week later, he attributed it to personal suffering, emphasizing that his actions were not due to a lack of patriotism or neglect of duty.

Q11) While hatred against a member of the enemy race is justifiable, especially during wartime, what makes a human being rise above narrow prejudices?

Ans. Rising above hatred requires recognizing one's professional duty and responding to the call of humanity. In "The Enemy", Dr. Sadao Hoki, despite being a patriot, chooses to save a dying prisoner of war washed ashore. His role as a surgeon and compassion for the suffering person override national prejudices. Despite the risks and opposition, he operates on the man, showcasing how professional duty and empathy can transcend narrow animosities.

Q12) Do you think the doctor's final solution to the problem was the best possible one in the circumstances?

Ans. Yes, the doctor's decision to let the prisoner escape was the best solution. Unable to return him to the sea due to his injuries, the doctor's plan ensured the man's freedom. The General's promise of ~~assassins~~ assassins remained unfulfilled, and concerns about arrest grew. Dr. Sadao's strategy normalised life after the escape, with the General admitting forgetfulness wasn't a lack of patriotism. In summary, the doctor's approach was the most practical and humane under the circumstances.

Q13) Does the story remind you of 'Birth' by A.J. Cronin that you read in 'Snapshots' last year? What are the similarities?

Ans. Certainly, "The Enemy" by Pearl S. Buck shares similarities with A.J. Cronin's "Birth". Both stories feature dedicated doctors as protagonists, emphasizing their commitment to duty and patient well-being. In "Birth", Dr. Andrew Mason revives a still-born baby, showcasing medical dedication. Similarly, Dr. Sadao Hoki in "The Enemy" performs a miraculous operation, saving a near-dying man. Both doctors sacrifice personal comfort for patients, with Dr. Sadao facing greater risks. Despite differences, both stories highlight the doctors' devotion to humanity and their ~~parents~~ patients.