

SECTION - I : SHORT STORIES

CHAP. - 1 I SELL MY DREAMS

GABRIEL GARCIA MARQUEZ

About the Author: - Gabriel Garcia Marquez was a famous short story writer of English language who won the Nobel Noble Prize in 1982 for his outstanding works in the field of literature. He is considered as the greatest living Latin American master of narrative.

SUMMARY - The place in this story is Havana Rivera Hotel in Cuba. There is a whirlwind in the sea and it destroys the entrance gate of the hotel including the cars parked on the pavement.

The author watches the panic among the public there and the rescue efforts made by Cuban volunteers. After a six hour long course, he watches a crane lifting the body of a woman along with the car in which, she was tied by a seat-belt. That scene immediately took back to the memory of the author, upon the days as long as thirty four years back. He had met that woman in Vienna where he was a student. The American students named her Frau Frieda as she had never told her real name. During her frequent visits to tavern, the author could know that she was from Columbia and used to sell her dreams. The religious and affluent people in Vienna, gave her superfluous

honour for prophesy and gradually, she started earning wealth and name considerably. The author was from a poor family hence that lady assisted him time to time while he was in Austria. She once told the author that he should leave Vienna at least for five years, which was immediately followed as the author, on the same day had boarded the train for Rome.

That lady again was seen in Barcelona. She had stepped there with Pablo Neruda, a poet. The lady still then was grown old and fat. It was the last meeting of the author with that lady and after a long time. And finally, Fran Frieda succumbed to an accident in a car due to a tempest in Havana, capital of Cuba.

NM Q2. Why did he think that Frau Frieda's dreams were a stratagem for surviving?

Ans. It was so because

- (i) Frau Frieda had no other qualifications than to sell her dreams.
- (ii) She was from a family where it was a routine in every morning that each member of family would tell his/her dream at the breakfast table and a common consensus would predict, what might happen in forthcoming days.
- (iii) It was the period of World wars and people those days were living with gross uncertainty.
- (iv) Frau Frieda has a number of elite clients who used to set their routine according to the predictions made by her.
- (v) She has once made a true prediction on the cause of death for her younger brother when she was merely a child of seven years old. That event had made her self-confident in the matter of predictions.
- (vi) Her family of eleven members was eventually met to desertion after the death of her father in Northern Columbia in South America and since then, she was travelling from one country to another.

(vii) She was conversant to a number of languages like Spanish, German, English and French. It was therefore, easy for her to make liaison with high dignitaries like Ambassadors, High Commissions and tycoons in business.

Conclusion—On the basis of above strong grounds, we can state that the author was right in thinking that Frau Frieda's dreams were a stratagem for surviving.

Q3. Why does the author compare Neruda to a Renaissance Pope?

Ans. We all people know that the period of Renaissance in Europe was started from Italy under the feudal system established by the Pope. Imperialism was brought by the several sermons or decrees passed and issued by the Pope popularly known as Papal-Bull during fourteenth to sixteenth century. Europeans had established a number of colonies in America and Asia continents during that period. It was hunger for expansion of empire. In the same sense, Neruda was a high dignitary i.e. Ambassador of Burma (Presently Myanmar). He was a great scholar and book-worm as he had bought an old, dried out volume with worn binding for a cost equal to his salary for two months in Pangon (Myanmar). He was a clairvoyant, poet and an excellent painter. He was gluttonous as he ate three lobsters, clams, mussels, prawns and sea cucumbers. Owing to such voracity and refined tastes for learning, the author was all right in making his comparison with the Renaissance Pope.

Q. 4. 'Pablo Neruda made the desire to eat contagious'. Explain.

Ans. Our eyes are the first sensory organs that carry the message to mind whatever is seen outside by them. Those are the most sensitive organs connected with the four kinds of nerves in general and psycho-somatic in particular.

This is the reason, we first see the things and only then a temptation for their consumption arises. In case, we are in a dark room and in a state of sound sleep, someone enters there and starts eating sweetmeat without least commotion. In that circumstance or situation; we cannot take notice of the thing (i.e. sweetmeat) subject to our nose and ears have also gone out of their respective powers i.e. olfaction and audition. Thus, it is established that these are eyes that arouse an appetite. However; metabolism, digestive system, knowledge on different culinaries, taste experienced earlier, the flavour of the food etc) several factors simultaneously support the gluttonous temptation. It would also not out of place to mention here that inner feelings are first expressed in eyes of individuals concerned. It is read by the people accompanied by the individual. There arises an extraresplendence in eyes, these start focusing on the plates of other fellows, secretion of saliva is increased, the neck starts moving to and fro and hands of such individual shovel the food quickly in the buccal-cavity under the influence of excess appetite or voracity. Thus, the desire to eat contagious can be read by the people accompanied with the individual (here it is Pablo Neruda).

Q. 9. What characteristics of fiction do you see in this story ?

Ans. A fiction is mainly knitted with imagination throughout the plot of the story. Here we see locations based on fiction as Borges, Valaraiso, Quindio and fictional characters as Frau Frieda, Pablo Neruda, Matilde etc. used in different contexts. Again, the prophesy, dreaming, Japanese tea ceremony etc. are all much or less indicate imaginary and supernatural faculties of human mind and brain. Events taking place in this story are also based on imagination, some where less and much at other places.

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.

Vienna was still an old imperial city, whose geographical position between the two irreconcilable worlds left behind by the Second World War had turned it into a paradise of black marketeering and international espionage. I could not have imagined a more suitable sport for my fugitive compatriot, who still ate in the students' tavern on the corner only out of loyalty to her origins, since she had more than enough money to buy meat for all her table companions. She never told her real name, and we always knew her by the Germanic tongue twister that we Latin American students in Vienna invented for her: Frau Frieda. I had just been introduced to her when I committed the happy impertinence of asking how she had come to be in a world so distant and different from the windy cliffs of Quindío, and she answered with a devastating.

Questions :

(i) Where is located Vienna and why has it been told old imperial city in this fiction?

(ii) Why would Vienna have turned into paradise of black marketeering and espionage?

(iii) Why does the author say Frau Frieda, his fugitive compatriot?

(iv) What is the purported meaning of Frau Frieda?

(v) What do you understand by happy impertinence?

Answers

(i) Vienna is the capital city of Austria. It has since beginning remained a separate country.

(ii) It is because of geographical location of this capital city between the Axis and Allies i.e. two world powers who caused the World War II. As it stands amid these fighting nations, it was usual that black marketeering and espionage activities flourished here during the war period.

(iii) The author himself was also born in Northern Columbia (i.e. South America) and the primary gist of this story i.e. Frau Frieda. Both of them had come and met in Vienna, Austria in Europe owing to circumstances improper for their career growth in Columbia. Hence, he was right in saying her as his fugitive compatriot.

(iv) It's Germanic tongue twister.

(v) It is meant by the act of inquiring something from the person who starts conversation without first giving his / her introduction i.e. his name, address, family background etc. It is just a tone of etiquette or courtesy.

PASSAGE NO. 3

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow :

In reality, that was her only trade. She had been the third of eleven children born to a prosperous shopkeeper in old Caldas, and as soon as she learned to speak she instituted the fine custom in her family of telling dreams before breakfast, the time when their oracular qualities are preserved in their purest form. When she was seven she dreamed that one of her brothers was carried off by a flood. Her mother, out of sheer religious superstition, forbade the boy to swim in the ravine, which was his favourite pastime. But Frau Frieda already had her own system of prophesy.

Questions :

- (i) *What was the trade of Frau Frieda ?*
- (ii) *Where was the city of old Caldas ?*
- (iii) *Why do the people tend to rely on dreams and take certain precautions?*
- (iv) *Do you think everyone has his separate system of prophesy?*

Answers :

(i) Actually, it was not trade but to some extent, we can state it a profess or as per author's statement somewhere else in this story, it was a stratagem for surviving which a number of people passing through the conditions of the protagonist, prefer to carry particular when other skills of earning are stumbled and do not succeed. We cannot state it trade because exchange of goods or objects takes place in trading.

(ii) It was perhaps in Columbia in South America, a country located between Venezuela and Ecuador.

(iii) As we know, our body enjoys complete relax while sleeping, the sub-conscious part of the brain or in other words, the matrix of data or C.P.U. is engrossed with doing minutest analysis. Certain cues of happening in future, therefore, start emerging inside the brain. Sometimes, these appear true while false at some other. Understanding the dreams is therefore, a distinct branch of occult sciences.

(iv) Yes, it may occur as every individual generally, recollects the dream he caused, in next morning; just after he leaves the bed. Sometimes, dreams become a topic of groups discussion among family members in which every one interprets his own way in accordance with previous experience. Very conditions apply when we talk of the prophets or fortune tellers like Frau Frieda in the story.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR :-

"James Joyce was a famous short story writer of English language. His craft of narration is praiseworthy because in this fiction, he has proved that a topical invisible and in the form of mental conflict can be converted in a fiction, so tasty as every individual at his/her pre-marital stage of life, can see himself/herself in the mirror of the plot of this fiction."

SUMMARY :- The virgin's name is Miss Hill or somewhere Eveline. She had lost her mother before she could see her prime and father was incongruous to her outlook and choices. Her playmates were Dexines, Waters, the Durns, Keogh (perhaps dog) and her brothers and sisters. She was gradually separated from Tizzie Dunn because he was dead and Waters had gone back to England. She handles domestic liability in full, after the death of her mother and visits to stores where perhaps she works as sales girl. Eveline and her brother Harry give all their earning to their father but when they ask some money as pocket expenses their father criticises them. In these circumstances, she feels uneasiness and wants to elope with her boyfriend Frank, who is a sailor in Allan line ship that takes departure from Ireland to Canada. But her father was not happy with their relationship. She observes all qualities in Frank as

he was expert in music, generous, manly and open hearted. They had decided to ship from Dublin on a night and she had already reached at North Wall at Deck. In the meantime her conscience resists her from stepping out of her own country with ^{her} boy friend. But simultaneously she is frightened of rumours, social enigma, worried about her father's health, her responsibility as sole guardian to her two younger siblings and worried of her service in stores. These all things start rotating in her conscious and she gives up that idea to elop with Frank. However, she finally declined to go with Frank in his native land at South America.

Q. 3. Why do you think Eveline let go of the opportunity to escape?

Ans. It was because—(i) She was a conscious spinster. (ii) Her father's persuasion had acted however, late in her brain. (iii) She had understood that a foreigner would not deserve honour and respect as she saw her father and neighbour insulted a Roman when he visited at their doors. (iv) She had honour for the words, she gave to her mother while she was dying. (v) She was dutiful and loyal to her family, the office as also to entire Ireland i.e; her nation. (vi) She was duly understood, the significance of social norms, the traditions and the law, time being in force in Ireland (Dublin).

Q. 4. What are the signs of Eveline's indecision that we see as the hour of her departure with Frank neared ?

Ans. These signs are as follows—

(i) Her vision made her to listen her mother's voice in which she had to that every pleasure ends in pain or when the course of pleasure ends, that of the pain starts.

(ii) We see her merely sitting and musing by the window side.

(iii) In her vision, she had reached in the station (dock) and the ship was heard whistling but actually, she, was still seated besides the window.

(iv) She was in trance so much as she started omitting.

(v) "Her eyes gave him no sign of love or farewell or recognition"—This line reveals that she would have fainted under the sheer influence of trance.

Q. 1. The description in this story has symbolic touches. What do you think the "window", the "gathering dusk", the dusty cretonne and its odour symbolise ?

Ans. It is an allegory style of writing in which each character or event is described as a symbol representing a particular quality.

For an example : In John Bunyan's Pilgrim's progress - "Christian escapes from the city of destruction, travels through the slough of despond, visits vanity fair and finally, arrives at the celestial city. He meets characters such as the Giant Despair and Mr. Worldly Wiseman and is accompanied by Faithful and Hopeful" . We see all these places and people represent particular qualities in a disguised or symbolic manner.

The "window" herein symbolises the stage previous to draw a blue-print of the plan because calculations and measures all are generalised at this juncture in order to give the same finally approved shape and design.

The gathering Dusk in context with the story denotes here a state of I confusion throwing all previous preparations and plan in the dark and night or renunciation would very soon make the things forgotten.

The dusty cretonne : The term cretin means a foolish act hence, it denotes absurdity in plans drawn by someone (Here Eveline). The term dust refers to an omission or foolish act committed under extrenuous influence. It is that of Frank herein this story. This compound word implies that in course of introspection or review of things; an influence from outside is get noticed by the protagonist.

An odour of cretonne implies the process of taking in notice and understanding the reality for a while, covered by curtains. The influence of Frank, a sailor from South America was like a curtain which had covered/ closed the eyes of discretion and that fact was realised in course of introspection/review made by Eveline.

Q.4. What do you understand by the terms review and introspection?

Ans. The term review denotes revision of the things we do physically or which is perceivable for an instance, chapter review, plan review etc. Another term "introspection" however, is the process in which an individual does a careful examination of his own thoughts, feelings and reasons for behaving in a particular way in the situation. In other words, physical errors i.e. clerical mistakes, omission, remissions are rectified under the process of review while mistakes committed by instincts, emotions, sentiments and vagaries are rectified or set aright again under the process of introspection. In a nutshell, review falls under jurisdiction of mind while introspection falls under the jurisdiction of the final authority i.e. brain.

Q.5. What are the changes that occurred in and around Eveline's home between her early childhood days and after she grew up?

Ans. Changes in home between childhood and prime days are mentioned in the following—

- (i) The play-ground was bought by a British national and a giant building was constructed.
- (ii) Her mother, Tizzie Dunn and Earnest were dead.
- (iii) Her outlook for father was changed from a jolly man to a strict disciplinarian. It changed her humour in palpitation.
- (iv) Her playing instinct was vanished and it was substituted by an anxious girl/spinster.
- (v) The baton of blackthorn was a topic of honour for her but at her prime mere persuasion had become a cause for palpitations.
- (vi) She had a deep attachment for her family members, friends and every object in the home but at her prime, that all had by gone.
- (vii) She was depend in full on her parent but at her prime; she was a working spinster with a monthly income of seven shillings.