

4. ORU MANUSHYAYAN

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COMPREHENSION 1.

1. HOW FAR WAS THE BIG CITY FROM THE NARRATOR'S HOME TOWN? The big city was some thousand five hundred miles far from the narrator's home town.
2. WHERE DID THE NARRATOR STAY IN THE BIG CITY? In the big city, the narrator stayed in a very small, dingy room on a dirty street.
3. FOR MONEY, PEOPLE WOULD DO ANYTHING, EVEN _____ (FILL IN THE BLANK)
ANSWER. COMMIT MURDER.
4. WHAT WAS THE NARRATOR DOING TO EARN A LIVING? To earn a living, he carried on a profession there; he taught English to some migrant labourers from nine-thirty till eleven in the night. He taught them to write addresses in English.
5. _____ WAS CONSIDERED GREAT ENGLISH THERE. a) Learning English.
b) Learning to write an address in English.
c) Writing addresses at the post office.
6. WHAT REASON DID THE NARRATOR GIVE FOR SLEEPING ALL DAY AND HAVING FOOD IN THE EVENING? ++
To save the expenses of drinking his morning tea or eating the noon meal the narrator slept all day and having food in the evening.
7. HOW MUCH MONEY DID THE NARRATOR HAVE IN HIS POCKET AS HIS LIFE'S SAVINGS?
The narrator had fourteen rupees in his pocket as his life's savings.
8. THE MAN WHO CAME FORWARD TO PAY THE NARRATOR'S BILL WAS
a) a man with a red turban.
b) a person dressed in a suit.
c) a money lender.

COMPREHENSION II.

1. DESCRIBE THE PEOPLE AND THE PLACE WHERE THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE.
The narrator tells that he has some vague notions about human beings, including himself. He also says that, around him there are good men and thieves, those who suffer from various infectious diseases and from madness. He tells that one has to live carefully, for the world has more evil than good and that we realize that only after we get hurt. The people or the inhabitants in that place had never been known for the quality of mercy. They were a cruel people. Murder, robbery, pick – pocketing were the daily occurrences. By tradition the people were professional soldiers. Some of them went to distant places and lent out money on interest. Many others served as watchmen in banks, mills and large commercial establishments in big cities. Money was highly valued by them. For money they would do anything, even commit murder.
2. WHAT WAS THE ROUTINE OF THE NARRATOR IN THE CITY?
Every day the narrator taught English to the migrant labourers from nine -thirty till eleven in the night. He taught the skill of writing addresses to people. He would sleep all day and wake up at four in the evening. At 4 p.m. He used to finish his daily chores and would step out for his tea and a meal.

3. GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF THE EMBARRASSING EXPERIENCE OF THE NARRATOR AT THE RESTAURANT?

The narrator as usual got up at 4 p.m. He finished his daily chores and stepped out for his tea and a meal. He had fourteen rupees in his wallet. The narrator entered a crowded restaurant. He ate a full meal consisting of chapatis and meat curry. The bill came to eleven annas. The narrator put his hand in his pocket to pay it. He began sweating profusely and felt almost digested in an instant all that he had eaten. He realized that his wallet was not there. And said that someone had picked his pocket and taken away his wallet.

It was a very busy restaurant. The owner gave a loud guffaw startling everyone around. He caught the narrator by the lapels of his coat and shook him, and cried out that his trick would not work there. And asked him put the money down or else he would gouge his eyes out. The narrator at the people around him. He could not find one kind face .they had a look of hungry wolves. He narrator felt that the owner of the restaurant would definitely gouge his eyes out. The narrator said to the owner that he would keep his coat there and bring some money. But the restaurant keeper laughed again and asked him to take off his coat. The narrator took off his coat. He then asked him to take off his shirt. The narrator took off that too. Then the restaurant keeper asked him to take off his shoes, then his trousers he took of his shoes but to take off the trousers!?! That idea seemed to be to strip him, gouge out his eyes and send him naked! The narrator said that he had nothing on underneath. Everyone in the restaurant laughed. The restaurant keeper said that he doubts that: he must have had something on underneath. The other people approved the sentence. The narrator refused to move. He imagined a man standing in the crowd, stark naked and without eyes. He felt that life was going to end like that. He wished that let that end and for all that everything would end to the satisfaction of all. Thus this was the embarrassing experience of the narrator at the restaurant.

4. A STRANGER SAVED THE DAY FOR THE NARRATOR. HOW?

The narrator was about to undo one by one the buttons of his trousers. Then, he heard a voice that said him to stop and that he would pay the money. Everyone turned in the direction of the voice. And there stood a fair- complexioned man, six foot tall, with a red turban and white trousers. He spotted a handled – bar moustache and had blue eyes. The stranger came forward and asked the restaurant keeper that how much had he to pay. He then payedeleven annas and asked the narrator to put on his clothes. Thus the Narrator saved the day for the narrator.
