



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
QUESTION BANK - (2020-21)
RANGA'S MARRIAGE

Class: XI

Sub: ENGLISH

I. Reference to context: Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

1. *"The fellow said he would leave but he did not move."*

- Name the lesson and the writer.
- Who is the 'fellow' and where was he?
- Why did he offer to leave?
- Who is saying the above statement?

Ans.

- The lesson is 'RANGA'S MARRIAGE' and the writer is Masti Venkatesha Iyengar.
- Ranga is referred to as the 'fellow'. He is at the narrator's house as he was asked to come there by the narrator.
- Seeing that Ratna was uncomfortable to sing in Ranga's presence, he offered to leave.
- The narrator 'Shyama' is saying the above statement.

2. *"There's greater truth in that shastra than we imagine".*

- Who is saying the above statement? To what does it refer to?
- What was the greater truth that was revealed.
- Why had they met the Shastri?
- What is the 'shastra' mentioned here?

Ans.

- Ranga is saying the above statement. He says this after his meeting with the village astrologer, Shastri. Ranga was convinced that shastra had great knowledge hidden in them which could solve all mysteries of life.
- Shastri had accurately predicted the reason behind his sore heart, that it was a girl who had a name of something found in the ocean. This was none other than the lovely Ratna.
- Ranga was disappointed and unhappy to know that Ratna was married and looked upset. So the narrator took Ranga to meet the village astrologer Shastri.
- 'Shastra' here refers to the science of astrology.

II. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words:

Q1. What reason does the narrator give for calling his narration "Ranga's Marriage"?

Ans. The narrator in the beginning of his narration explains to his readers that he could have given a more "mouth-filling name" for example, "Ranganatha Vivaha" or "Jagannatha Vijaya" to his story rather than calling it "Ranga's Marriage", but the story is about someone he is close too, his Rangappa. Ranga who was born and brought up in his beloved village Hosahalli and it is indeed the story of his wedding. The word "marriage" gives a personal touch and also serves to reminisce the western influence which Ranga was under when he was sent to Bangalore for studying.

Q2. How does the author mock Geographers and cartographers for not mentioning the name of his village?

Ans: Hosahalli is a village in Karnataka, located in the former Mysore state. The author describes Hosahalli as a beautiful place with its mangoes as its main attraction. However, he is upset that the Indian cartographer and the British cartographer did not mark Hosahalli in the map when it was made years ago. He even mocks them by calling them a flock of sheep where one sheep walks into a pit and rest of them follow it blindly. He is so disappointed at the fact that Indian geographers instead of correcting the mistake of English Sahibs, who did not bother to put their beloved village on any map, but blindly following their so-called “greatness”.

Q3. What kind of bride was Ranga looking for? Why?

Ans. On returning from Bangalore after completing his studies, Ranga had deterred from the traditional concepts of arranged marriage that was prevalent among his fellow villagers. He wanted to marry the right girl who was mature enough to comprehend his words and not misunderstand them. His first example was of a thirty-year-old officer married to a twenty-five-year-old lady who could converse lovingly. Besides, he wanted to marry a girl whom he admired. He gave example of Kalidasa’s play where Dushyantha fell in love with Shakuntala who was very mature, thus, making him convinced that he could only marry a girl he could admire.

Q 4. Who was Rama Rao’s niece? Why was she the narrator’s choice for Ranga?

Ans: Ratna who was a pretty girl of eleven was the niece of Rama Rao. Both her parents have died, her uncle had brought her home. She was a girl from a big town. She knew how to play harmonium and veena. Moreover, she has a sweet voice. All these qualities in her made her suitable for a young and educated boy like Ranga.

Q5. Ranga and Ratna were both very fond of the narrator. Justify.

Ans. The narrator, known as Shyama, as single-handedly responsible for the pairing of Ranga and Ratna, which culminated into their marriage. So they were very fond and grateful to him. Thus they had named their first child Shyama after him as it is a common English tradition to name your child after someone you truly admire. The narrator was invited for dinner, for their son’s third birthday. When he went there, Shyama came running to him to show his love by holding his leg. The narrator kissed him and gave him a ring.

III. Answer the following questions in 100-120 words:

1. Comment on the influence of English—the language and the way of life— on Indian life as reflected in the story. What is the narrator’s attitude to English?

Ans: The narrator says that during the last ten years English language has made inroads into Indian countryside. Now there are many who know English. During the holidays, one comes across them on every street, talking in English. They bring in English words even while talking in Kannada. The narrator considers it disgraceful. He illustrates his point of view by giving an example. A bundle of firewood was bought at Rama Rao’s house. Rama Rao’s son asked the woman how much he should give her. When she said, “Four pice”, the boy told her that he did not have any “change” and asked her to come the next day. The poor woman did not understand the English word “change” and went away muttering to herself. Thus the use of English language before a native Kannada speaker caused confusion.

Ranga was influenced by the English way of life. He wanted to marry a mature girl and not a young present-day bride. He told the narrator that he would marry when he grew a bit older.

Secondly, he wanted to marry a girl he admired. He was not in favour of arranged marriages. This shows the influence of English way of life on modern young educated Indians. The narrator did not approve of it.

2. Astrologers' perceptions are based more on hearsay and conjecture than what they learn from the study of the stars. Comment with reference to the story.

Ans: This story presents astrologers in an unfavourable light. The author seems to be mocking at them through the words of the narrator. The story gives a graphic description of how the narrator employs the astrologer to trick an unwilling young man to agree to marry a young girl. He tutors him in all that he wants him to say.

The narrator took Ranga to the astrologer. The Shastri took out his paraphernalia. These included two sheets of paper, some cowries and a book of Palmyra leaves. He called astrology ancient science. He moved his lips fast as he counted on his fingers. He did some calculations before telling Ranga that he was thinking about a girl. She had the name of something found in the ocean. He assured them that their negotiations would definitely bear fruit. Ranga was impressed by the science of astrology.

That evening the narrator congratulated Shastri for repeating everything he had taught without giving rise to any suspicion. He mocked astrology by saying, "What a marvellous shastra yours is!" The Shastri didn't like it and said that he could have found it out himself from his shastra. This shows that astrologers' perceptions are based more on hearsay and conjecture than what they learn from the study of the stars.

Q.5. Evaluate the narrator to be an efficient plot creator.

~ The narrator is a well-meaning gentleman who has the good of others in his heart. He learns of Ranga's views about marriage from Ranga himself. He is a good judge of human character. He thinks that Ranga would make a good husband. The narrator is a good strategist. He cleverly calls Ranga to his home when Ratna is singing a song. He notices Ranga's reaction and interest in her and arouses his curiosity by arranging a meeting with the astrologer. First, he says that Ratna is married, but when he finds Ranga deeply interested in her, he confesses that he was wrongly informed. In short, the narrator tries his utmost to get the marriage settled. The narrator loves fun and humour. He has the capacity to make others laugh at him. He employs a great style and gives many similes and metaphors to heighten the literary value of the story. The touches of local colour make the story full of ethnic colour and unique.