



Summary

A baker from Goa is a story that relates to the time when there was Portuguese rule in Goa. The story is of a baker living in a Goan village. During those times people ate loaves of bread. These were made in big furnaces. The bakers known as ‘Paders’ would come to sell this bread in the street and would make a jingle sound with the bamboo. Although, nowadays we may not see these loaves but may sometimes see the furnaces and some bakers carrying on the traditional business of their forefathers. The author remembers the coming of the baker twice a day during his childhood days. He was the author’s friend and guide. The maidservants in the author’s house would buy loaves of bread which they ate with tea. During those days, bread was an important part of any occasion especially the sweet bread, Bol. Also, the baker had a peculiar dress, Kabai. It was a single-piece frock that would reach up to knees. Baking was a profitable business at that time.

Q1. What are the elders in Goa nostalgic about?

The narrator often finds his elders thinking about ‘those good old days’ and telling them about the famous breads that date back to the time when Portuguese ruled over Goa. They ponder over the past and tell them that though the Portuguese have left Goa but the bakers still exist, if not the original ones, their legacy is being continued by their sons.

Q2. Is bread-making still popular in Goa? How do you know?

Yes, bread-making is still popular in the city of Goa. It is evident from the existence of time-tested furnaces, mixers and moulders. The legacy of bakers is being continued by their sons. You will find a bakery in every Goan village as bread is an important part of the Goan culture.

Q3. What is the baker called?

The baker is referred to as ‘Pader’ in the city of Goa.

Q4. When would the baker come every day? Why did the children run to meet him?

The baker would come twice every day during the narrator’s childhood days. Once in the morning to deliver the loaves of bread and secondly, in the evening on his return after selling his stock. The children would go running to him to take the special bread bangles he had made for them.

Q6. What did the bakers wear?

i. In the Portuguese days?

ii. When the author was young?

(i) In the Portuguese days, the bakers wore a unique knee-length frock dress typically known as ‘kabai’.

(ii) In the narrator’s childhood days, he had seen them wearing shirts and trousers shorter than usual pants.

Q7. Who invites the comment — “he is dressed like a pader”? Why?

During the narrator’s childhood days, the bakers had a peculiar dress. They wore shirts and

trousers shorter than usual pants. Thus, if someone is seen wearing pants of this much length, they invite the comment – “he is dressed like a pader”.

Q8. Where were the monthly accounts of the baker recorded?

The monthly accounts of the baker were recorded on some wall in pencil.

Q9. What does a ‘jackfruit-like appearance’ mean?

A. ‘Jackfruit-like appearance’ means a well-built or plump physique, similar to a jackfruit. In those days, bakers had plump physique because baking was a profitable profession. His family and servants never starved and were prosperous.

Q10. Is bread an important part of Goan life? How do you know this?

A. Bread is an important part of the Goan culture and it is evident from its presence at every important occasion. From sweet breads at marriages to sandwiches at engagement parties and cakes and Bolinhas at Christmas as well as other occasions, makes the presence of a baker in every village, very essential.

Q. Which of these statements are correct?

i. The pader was an important person in the village in old times.

True

ii. Paders still exist in Goan villages.

True

iii. The paders went away with the Portuguese.

False, they still exist in Goan villages.

i. The paders continue to wear a single-piece long frock.

False, they wear shirts and trousers that are shorter than the usual ones and longer than the half-pants.

ii. Bread and cakes were an integral part of Goan life in the old days.

False, they are still an integral part of Goan culture.

iii. Traditional bread-baking is still a very profitable business.

True

iv. Paders and their families starve in the present times.

False, it is still a very profitable business and their families are happy and prosperous.

Tick the right answer. What is the tone of the author when he says the following?

- i. The thud and the jingle of the traditional baker's bamboo can still be heard in some places. (nostalgic, hopeful, sad)
- ii. Maybe the father is not alive but the son still carries on the family profession. (nostalgic, hopeful, sad)
- iii. I still recall the typical fragrance of those loaves. (nostalgic, hopeful, naughty)
- iv. The tiger never brushed his teeth. Hot tea could wash and clean up everything so nicely, after all. (naughty, angry, funny)
- v. Cakes and bolinhas are a must for Christmas as well as other festivals. (sad, hopeful, matter-of-fact)
- vi. The baker and his family never starved. They always looked happy and prosperous. (matter-of-fact, hopeful, sad)

Answers-

- i. Nostalgic
- ii. Nostalgic
- iii. Nostalgic
- iv. Funny
- v. Matter-of-fact
- vi. Matter -of-fact

1. What would the elders reminisce about bakers and bread of Goa?

Ans. The elders reminisced about the old Portuguese days. They were also nostalgic about the Portuguese and the loaves of bread which was quite famous. Though the loaves eaters have vanished, but the makers were still there.

2. How would the baker let everybody know about his presence in the village?

Ans. The baker had been the guide, friend, and companion of the narrator. He would come to the village daily two times; at first in the morning and then again after selling all his stuffs. In the morning, the children of the village used to wake up by the jingling sound of the baker's bamboo.

3. How is making bread a family tradition?

Ans. The marriage gifts, the parties, or the feasts are meaningless without the sweet bread which is known as the 'bol'. The mothers prepare it a necessary item for her daughter's engagement. Cakes and bolinhas are also quite essential items for Christmas. In this way, bread is a family tradition and thus the presence of a baker's house in the village is quite essential.

4. How would a baker be a common friend, guide and a man to be expected twice every day with his usual business?

Ans. The bakers used to visit the village two times a day. Early in the morning, the baker would arrive for selling his stuffs. The children would wake up by the jingling thud. The children would wait eagerly for him and when the baker would arrive they

used to run up to him. Again, after everything was sold, he would return to the village.

5. Who were Paskine or Bastine? What was their role in a family and with bread?

Ans. Paskine or Bastine were the maid-servants of the house.

When the baker would arrive, one of them would buy those loaves of bread.

6. What was a baker's musical entry? How would it attract the younger ones and all?

Ans: The baker used to arrive on the spot with the 'jhang-jhang' sound that was being made by his bamboo staff. The sound would wake the children up and they would run to him in excitement. The children were highly interested in those bread-bangles.

7. Tell us about the bamboo and the basket of the bakers.

Ans: The baker arrived on the scene by making the jingling thud which would make the children wake up from sleep. He held the basket on his head and supported it by one of his hands and would use the other hand for banging the bamboo on the ground.

8. How would the author and other children be very interested in the baker's basket? How would they try to look at that?

Ans. The author and the other children were highly interested in the baker's basket. When the loaves of bread were delivered to the servant, the children were made aside with light rebukes. But they didn't stop. Then they used to stand up on a bench and would look on to the basket. This shows their interest in the baker's basket.

They used to climb a bench or parapet in order to look at that.

9. What would the author share about brushing teeth?

Ans: The author didn't care to brush his teeth or wash his mouth properly. According to him, it was a troublesome matter to pluck the mango-leaf for the toothbrush. And it was not at all necessary as the tigers never brush their teeth. Moreover, he thought that hot tea was enough to wash and clean up everything so nicely.

10. How marriages and engagements are incomplete without different types of breads?

Ans: The narrator said that marriage gifts have no value without the sweet bread which is known as the 'bol'. Party or a feast too is meaningless without bread. The mothers prepare it, as it is a necessary item for her daughter's engagement. By this way, these are so important.

11. How different breads and bakers would mean a lot in Christmas and other festivals?

Ans: The narrator said that marriage gifts are meaningless without the sweet bread which is known as the 'bol'. Party or a feast too is meaningless without bread. Cakes and bolinhas are also quite essential items for Christmas. By this way, we get to know that bread is an important part of Goan life.

12. What is Kabai? What kind of dresses are being discussed here of the bakers?

Ans. The bakers used to wear a peculiar dress named kabai which was a single-piece long frock reaching down to the knees.

It was actually a type of long frock of a single-piece that reaches down to the knees.

13. How could a baker keep his record of the bills?

Ans: The bakers kept the records of the bills of every month and collected them at the end. The records were made on wall with the help of pencil.

14. How would a baker be rich, prosperous and healthy in a village?

Ans: A baker's profession was indeed a profitable one in the old days. The baker and his family lead happy and prosperous life. They had a plump physique as an open testimony.

15. How would a baker play an indispensable role in a village?

Ans. In the story "Glimpses of India" written by Lucio Rodrigues, the baker plays an indispensable role in the village. Breads are quite important for the villagers. Breads are important for any occasions. Marriage gifts have no value without the 'bol', that is actually a type of sweet bread. Party or a feast is meaningless too without bread. The mothers prepare it for their daughter's engagement as it is an important item for the occasion. Cakes and bolinhas are quite essential items for Christmas.

16. "Life without bread in a village of Goa is almost impossible."-Discuss.

Ans. In the story "Glimpses of Past" by Lucio Rodrigues shows that life without bread in a village of Goa is almost impossible. People cannot imagine their lives without it. The children waited eagerly for bakers every day. At times, they get so much excited that they do not even care to brush their teeth. Any occasion or festival cannot be imagined without breads. Marriage gifts are meaningless without sweetbreads. The lady of the family prepared bread for her daughter's engagement as it is very important. Cakes and bolinhas are quite essential items for Christmas. A baker's profession was indeed a profitable one. The baker and his family led a prosperous life. Their plump physique shows that they lead a prosperous life.

SUMMARY (COORG)

Coorg is a story describing the Coorg or Kodagu, the smallest district of Karnataka. The author describes Coorg as a heavenly place that lies between Mangalore and Mysore. It is certainly God's abode as it has evergreen forests, spices and coffee plantations. From September to March, the weather is good here and thus many tourists come to visit the place. The air here has the coffee aroma in it. There's a famous story about the Greek or Arabic descent of the Coorg people that a part of Alexander's army had to settle here as it was not possible for them to return. They thus settled here and married with the locals. We may find people of Coorg wear Kuppia, a long black coat similar to the kuffia that Arabs wear.

People of Coorg are also very brave. The Coorg Regiment of Indian Army is one of the most significant regiments. Also, our first army chief, General Cariappa hails from Coorg. The forests and hills of Coorg provide a major source of water to the River Cauvery. Also, Mahaseer, the largest freshwater fish is found in these waters. From the top of the Brahmagiri hills, we can see the complete view of Coorg. Also, Buddhists monks live in Bylakuppe in the Island of Nisargadhama near Coorg.

Choose the correct alternative:

(a) _____ is a coffee country, famous for its rainforests and spices.

(i) Mysore (ii) Coorg (iii) Mangalore

Ans: (ii) Coorg.

(b) Coorg is said to have evergreen rainforests, spices and

(i) tea plantations (ii) rubber plantations (iii) coffee plantations

Ans: (iii) coffee plantations

(c) The people of Coorg look

(i) rigid (ii) independent (iii) very short

Ans: (ii) independent.

(d) The traditional dress (apparel) of Coorgi people is known as

(i) Kuppia (ii) Kuffia (iii) Kullia

Ans: (i) Kuppia.

(e) The large freshwater fish found in Coorg is

(i) river dolphin (ii) Mahaseer (iii) Rohu

Ans: (ii) Mahaseer.

Say true or false:

a) Lokesh Abrol wrote the prose-piece "Coorg".

Ans: True.

(b) Coorg is a home to evergreen rainforests, spices and coffee plantations.

Ans: True.

(c) Tea and rubber grow in Coorg in plenty.

Ans: False.

(d) The people of Coorg are possibly of French descent.

Ans: False.

(e) The first chief of the Indian Army, General Cariappa, was a Coorgi.

Ans: True.

VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS: -

1. Who wrote the prose piece, "Coorg"?

Ans: Lokesh Abrol wrote the prose piece, "Coorg".

2. Where is Coorg?

Ans: Coorg is situated midway between Mysore and Mangalore in the state of Karnataka.

3. What is Coorg home to?

Ans: Coorg is home to evergreen rainforests, spices and coffee plantations.

4. What is the other name of Coorg?

Ans: The other name of Coorg is Kodagu.

5. What covers thirty percent of Coorg district?

Ans: Evergreen rainforests cover thirty per cent of Coorg district.

6. Do the visitors have a good time in Coorg during the monsoons?

Ans: No, they don't have.

7. Which crops grow in Coorg in plenty?

Ans: Coffee plants grow in Coorg in plenty?

8. What can be seen in Coorg most prominently?

Ans: Coffee estates and colonial bungalows can be seen most prominently in Coorg.

9. State the Coorgi people's descent.

Ans: The Coorgi people are possibly of Greek or Arab descent.

10. What is Kuppia?

Ans: Kuppia is the long, black coat with an embroidered waist-belt worn by the Kodavus, i.e., the Coorgi people.

11. What is Kuffia?

Ans: Kuffia is the traditional attire of the Arabs and the Kurds.

12. What was worn by the Arabs and the Kurds?

Ans: Kuffia was worn by the Arabs and the Kurds.

13. What is the place of the Coorg Regiment in the Indian Army?

Ans: The Coorg Regiment has a high place in the Indian Army. It is one of the most decorated in the Indian Army. The first Chief of the Indian Army, General Cariappa, was a Coorgi.

14. What status do the Kodavus enjoy in India?

Ans: The Kodavus, i.e., the Coorgi people enjoy the privilege of carrying firearms without a license.

15. Name the river of Coorg.

Ans: The river of Coorg is Kaveri.

16. Name the large freshwater fish available in the river in Coorg.

Ans: The large freshwater fish available in the river in Coorg is Mahaseer.

17. Name the birds and animals found in Coorg.

Ans: The birds and animals found in Coorg are –kingfisher, Malabar squirrel, langur, elephant, macaque and slender loris.

18. What is favourite for the trekkers in Coorg?

Ans: The favourite adventures for the trekkers in Coorg are – river rafting, canoeing, rappelling, rock climbing and mountain biking.

19. From where can one have a view of a wide area of Coorg?

Ans: One can have a view of a wide area of Coorg from the top of the Brahmagiri hills.

20. Name the island in Coorg.

Ans: The island in Coorg is Nisargadhama.

21. Where is India's largest Tibetan settlement?

Ans: India's largest Tibetan settlement is in the island of Nisargadhama in Coorg.

Short Answer Type Questions:

1. Describe Coorg in brief, as presented in the opening paragraph.

Ans: Coorg is situated midway between Mysore and Mangalore and is described as a piece of heaven that must have drifted from the kingdom of god. It is also described as a land of rolling hills, martial men, beautiful women and wild creatures.

2. Where is Coorg situated? What is so significant about it as a place deserving to be visited?

Ans: Coorg is situated midway between Mysore and the coastal town of Mangalore in the state of Karnataka. It is a land of rolling hills, martial men, beautiful women and wild creatures. There are evergreen rainforests and sprawling coffee estates. It is also an ideal place for adventure sports. So, it deserves to be visited.

3. Describe the Coorgi people and their descent.

Ans: The Coorgi people are fiercely independent, brave and decorative. According to one theory, they are of Greek descent. It is said that they are the successors of a part of Alexander's army who came to Southern India and settled there when return became impractical. According to another theory, they are of Arab descent. There is resemblance between *Kuppia* that the Coorgi people wear and *Kuffia* that the Arabs and Kurds wear.

4. What is *Kuppia* and *Kuffia*?

Ans: *Kuppia* is the long, black coat with an embroidered waist-belt worn by the Kodavus, i.e., Coorgi people. *Kuffia* is traditionally worn by the Arabs and the Kurds.

5. Explain in brief about the Coorgi people's valour and bravery.

Ans: The Coorgi people are fiercely independent and brave. They are always willing to recount the tales of valour related to their sons and fathers. They are the only people in India permitted to carry firearms without a license.

6. How is the wildlife of Coorg?

Ans: Coorg has a bountiful and varied wildlife. It has fish like the Mahaseer, birds like kingfisher and animals like Malabar squirrel, langur, macaque, slender loris and elephant. Besides, bees and butterflies are also to be seen there.

7. What are the high energy adventures that are available in Coorg?

Ans: The high energy adventures that are available in Coorg are river rafting, canoeing, rappelling, rock climbing and mountain biking.

8. Describe the animals that can be seen and are available in Coorg.

Ans: In Coorg, squirrels and langurs drop partially eaten fruit for the mischief of enjoying the splash and the ripple effect in the clear water. Elephants enjoy being bathed and scrubbed in the river by their mahouts. Macaques, Malabar squirrels, langurs and slender loris keep a watchful eye from the tree canopy.

9. How can one have a panoramic view of Coorg?

Ans: One can have a panoramic view of Coorg by climbing on to the top of the Brahmagiri hills.

10. Describe the Tibetan settlement in Coorg.

Ans: In the sixty-four-acre island of Nisargadhama in Coorg, there is a Tibetan settlement near Bylakuppe. The monks can be seen in red, ochre and yellow robes.

SUMMARY: TEA FROM ASSAM

It begins from the scene where two friends, Pranjol and Rajvir are set to go to Assam, Pranjol's hometown when a tea vendor asks them if they would like to have some freshly made tea. They buy two cups joining almost every other person in their compartment. From there, the journey begins and Pranjol starts reading his detective book while Rajvir decides to enjoy the scenic beauty. There were soft green paddy fields followed by tea bushes. Rajvir is very excited on seeing such large plantations of tea but Pranjol is unable to match the same level because he was born and brought up in Assam, famously known as the 'Tea country'. Visiting there for the first

time, Rajvir did a lot of study about how tea was discovered and that it dates back to 2700 B.C. According to what he read, it was first consumed in China and reached Europe in the 16th century, where it was mostly popular for its medicinal properties. There are numerous stories as to how it was discovered, one about a Chinese Emperor and the other about a Buddhist monk. According to a Chinese legend, a few branches of tea fell accidentally in the boiled hot water. The Emperor liked the delicious flavour. This is how it came into being. As per an Indian legend, Buddhist Monk, Bodhidharma cut off his eyelids as to avoid sleep during meditation. As they were having this discussion, they reached their destination where Pranjol's parents had come to receive them and take them to their tea garden. Both of them got down at Mariani Junction and went to Dhekiabari Tea Estate. On their way, they passed a cattle bridge and gave way to a truck filled with tea leaves which drew their attention to the fact that it was the second sprouting season. Rajvir, indeed did a lot of study before coming which impressed Pranjol's father and he intended to learn a lot more.

Important Questions and Answers- Tea from Assam

Q1. Why was Rajvir excited to see the tea gardens?

OR

What made Rajvir amazed on the way?

Ans. Rajvir found the view outside the train splendid and eye catching with a lot of greenery. It was his first visit to Assam and he was fascinated by the sprawling tea gardens, spreading like the green sea of neatly pruned bushes and found it more interesting to watch, than reading his book on detectives.

Q2. How did Rajvir describe the view from the train?

Ans. Rajvir described the magnificent view of the landscape from the train window. It was a sea of tea bushes, fleeting against the backdrop of densely wooded hills. At odd intervals, there were tall shade-tree and one could see women tea-pluckers picking tea leaves, who appeared to be doll like figures.

Q3. What information was given by Pranjol's father to Rajvir about Assam Tea Estate?

Ans. Pranjol's father agreed to Rajvir's information about it being the second-flush or sprouting period and it lasted from May to July and yields the best tea.

Q4. What legends are associated with the origin of tea?

Ans. According to Chinese legend, once a few leaves of the twigs burning under the pot fell into the water and gave a delicious flavour: According to the Indian legend, Bodhidharma cut off his eyelids because he felt sleepy during meditation and threw them on the earth. Ten tea plants grew out of those eyelids. When he boiled them in water and drunk that water, it banished his sleep.

Q5. What is the Chinese legend regarding tea?

Ans. The Chinese legend about tea is that there was a Chinese emperor who had the habit of boiling water before drinking it. Once, a few twigs of the leaves burning under the pot fell into the water and gave it a delicious flavour. Those leaves were tea leaves.

Q6. How did Rajvir describe, the tea garden at Dhekiabari?

Ans. Rajvir's visit to Dhekiabari, where Pranjol's father worked as a manager, was a novel experience and he found it extremely fascinating. As they proceeded along the gravel road, with neatly pruned sea of tea bushes spreading over acres of land, he saw groups of tea-workers, wearing plastic aprons and baskets of bamboo sticks on their back, picking newly sprouted tea leaves.

Q7. How are the tea-pluckers different from the other farm labourers?

Ans. Tea pluckers are different from the other farm labourers as the tea pluckers are hired labourers whereas the farm labourers can be hired or can be the owners of the land. Tea pluckers

just pluck leaves whereas farm labourers go through the whole process, i.e., from sowing to harvesting.

Q8. Describe the magnificent views of tea estate with reference to the lesson “Tea from Assam”.

Ans. The view around the tree estate was magnificent. There was greenery all round. Against the backdrop of densely wooded hills, a sea of tea bushes stretched as far as the eye could see. Dwarfing the tiny tea plants were tall sturdy shade-trees and amidst the orderly rows of bushes busily moved doll-like figures of tea-pluckers.