

**THE TEXT BOOK-HORNBILL
FOR CLASS-XI
LESSON-1 **The portrait of a lady**
by khushwant singh**

Summary of the story

The writer speaks of his own grandmother. By the time, he wrote the story, she was quite old and all her hairs had been white. Her wrinkled face and body gave him a kind of surprise. Since twenty years, the writer is with his grandmother. People said that once the old lady was as beautiful as a fairy. Her husband -- writer's grandfather was also very handsome. His photo was being hung in the drawing room of the writer. Grandmother had always been short and fat, and her back was slightly bent. Wrinkles were across on her face. When the writer came to know her, she had been such condition. She was wearing a spotless white saree. Her silver locks were scattered untidily over her pale puckered face, and her lips constantly moved in inaudible prayer. She was like the winter landscape in the mountains. Both the writer and his grandmother were good friends. His parents had left him with his grandmother at village. His parents were in city. Every day, she used to wake up the writer to be ready to go to school. She was uttering the monotonous song while she was bathing. The writer liked her very much. His grandmother was going to school with him because there was the temple nearer the school. She would sit among the children and listen to the priest's prayer.

When writer's parents were settled in the city, they sent for them. That was a turning point in their friendship. Both the writer and his grandmother started spending days separately and the writer became separated from the close relation with his grandmother. When he reported her about the music lesson he was being taught his grandma felt sorrow, because she knew that music had been associated with hariots. She said nothing but her silence meant disapproval. When the writer went to University, he was allotted a room for his staying. His grandmother spent time with her spinning wheel. From sunrise to sunset she sat by her wheel spinning and reciting prayers. In the afternoon, she relaxed for a while to feed the sparrows. She was always getting surrounded by sparrows that were perching on her legs and shoulders. Some even sat on her head. When the writer decided to go abroad for further studies and his grandmother would be upset. But she came to leave him at the railway station but did not talk or show any emotion. She was totally absorbed in prayer and her fingers were busy telling the beads of her rosary.

After five years, he came back home and was received at the station by his grandmother. She did not look a day older. The author could feel her pulse as usual and her sparrows were with her. That evening she was seen very happy spending time with the older women folk.

The next day morning she was found being ill. Doctor was called for and he told that the fever was mild and she would be well within a short time. But she told others that her time had come. She lay peacefully in bed praying and telling her beads. Next time she

breathed her last. Then the funeral arrangements and proceedings went on. The dead body of the grandmother was covered with a red shroud. A crude stretcher was brought to take her to be cremated. By that time, thousands of sparrows sat scattered on the floor. There was no chirruping. When her corpse was taken, the sparrows flew away quietly. Here ends the portrait of a pious lady.

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y[kd vi uh nknh dsckjseacrkrk gSftl l e; ml usdgkuh fy[kh] og dkQh c[kt] Fkh v[ks] ml ds l kjscky l Qn gks p[ds] FkAmuds >g[h]kj p[gs]s v[ks] 'kjhj l sml s, d rjg dk vk'p; Z gk[kt] FkA chl l ky l } y[kd vi uh nknh ds l kFk gA ykxka dgrs Fksfd ; g c[kt] v[ks] r dHkh , d ijh dh rjg l n[] FkhA muds ifr&y[kd dk nknk Hkh cgr l n[] FkA mudh rLohj dks y[kd ds MRbax : e ea yVdk; k tk jgk FkA nknh geskk Nk[h] v[ks] eks[h] Fkh[] v[ks] ml dh i h B Fkh[] l h >[kt] FkhA >[kt] kam l dsp[gs] ij FkhA tc y[kd mlga tkuus yx[] mudh flFkr os h gh FkhA og , d cnkx l Qn l kMh i gurh FkhA muds plnh l scky muds i hys >g[h]kj p[gs]s ij fc[k]js jgrs Fk[] v[ks] ml ds gk[] yxkrkj l qk[] u n[] usokyh ckFkZuk xkrsgyrs jgrs FkA og i gkMh ea 'khr dkyhu ifj-'; dh rjg FkhA nksuka y[kd v[ks] mudh nknh vPNs nkr FkA ml dsekrk&fir k usml s xk[] ea vi uh nknh ds l kFk NkM+fn; k FkA muds ekrk&fir k 'kgj ea FkA i R; d fnu] og Ld[] tkus ds fy, y[kd dks r[] kj djus ds fy; s txkrh FkhA tc og Luku djrh Fkh[] rc og , dkdh uhj l xkuk xkrh FkhA y[kd mlga cgr i l n[] djrs FkA mudh nknh muds l kFk Ld[] tkrh Fkh D; k[] d Ld[] ds ikl einj FkA og cPpka ds chip cB[] rh FkhA v[ks] i q[] kjh dh ckFkZuk l q[] rh FkhA

tc y[kd dsekrk&fir k 'kgj ea cl x,] rks ml gkaus ml s "kgj cyk fy; kA ; g mudh nkrh ea, d egROI w k z ekM+ Fk Ays[kd v[ks] mudh nknh nksuka v[] x&v[] x fnu fcrkrs Fks v[ks] y[kd vi uh nknh ds l kFk ml d jhch l [] k l s v[] x gks x, A tc ml gkaus ml ga l achr ds l cd dsckjseacrkrk; k[] tks y[kd dks i < k; k tk jgk Fk rks nknh cgr n[] kh g[] D; k[] d og tkurh Fkh fd l achr dk l [] u k os; kvka l sgA ml gkaus d[] n ugha dgk y[] du ml dh p[] i h dk eryc vLoh-fr FkA

tc y[kd ; fuofl X/h x,] rks ml ga vi us jgus ds fy, , d dejk vko[] Vr fd; k x; kA mudh nknh drk[] z ds pj [] ts ds l kFk l e; fcrkrh FkhA l w kh; l s l w kLr rd og drk[] z ds pj [] ts ds ikl cB[] ckFkZuk x[] p[] x[] k; k djrh FkhA nki gj e[] x[] s k i f[k; ka dks f[] kykus ds fy, d[] n l e; rd vkjke djrhA og geskk x[] s k i f[k; ka l sf?kjh jgrh Fkh[] tks ml ds i[] ka v[ks] d[] ka ij cB[] tkrh FkhA d[] n muds fl j ij Hkh cB[] tkrh FkhA

tc y[kd us v[] xs dh i < kbz ds fy, fonsk tkus dk Q[] yk fd; k v[ks] ml dh nknh i[] s kku gks x; hA y[] du og ml ga j[] syos LV[] ku ij NkM+us v[] kbz Fkh[] y[] du ml gkaus l k d[] kbz Hk[] kouk dk i n[] "k[] u fd; k v[ks] u gha d[] kbz ckr dhA og i[] jh rjg l s ckFkZuk ea exu Fkh v[ks] mudh m[] xfy; ka ekyk ds nksuka ij fQj k jgh FkhA

i k[] p l ky ckn] og ?k[] y[] k[] v[] k; s v[ks] LV[] ku ij mudh nknh l se y[] kdkr g[] p[] A og , d fnu Hkh i[] jkuh ugha yx jgh FkhA y[kd us l keku; : i l sml dh ukMh dks egl w fd; k v[ks] muds i {kh muds l kFk FkA ml 'kke dks og l ; kuh efgykvka ds l e[] ds l kFk l e; fcrkrs g[] s cgr [] k[] k fn [] kbz nhA vxysfnu l [] g og chekj gks x[] b[] FkhA M, DVj dks cyk; k x; k v[ks] ml us dgk fd c[] k[] kj gYdk gS v[ks] os FkM+ s l e; ds Hkh rj vPNh rjg Bhd gks tk; s[] hA y[] du ml us n[] l jka l sdgk fd ml dk l e; vk x; k gA os 'k[] r l sfcLrj ij ckFkZuk djrs g[] ekyk ds nksuka dks fxu jgh FkhA vxyh ckj ml us vi uh v[] ire l ka yhA fQj v[] ire l [] dkj 0; oLFk v[ks] v[] l; dk; b[] kgh i k[] j Etk g[] p[] A nknh dser 'kjhj dks , d yky dQu l s < d fn; k x; k FkA ml ga v[] ire l [] dkj ds fy; s ys tkus ds g[] r[] q, d dPpk LV[] p[] j yk; k x; k A ml l e; rd] g[] t[] k[] ka x[] s k Q' l z ij fc[k] j dk cB[] x[] bA d[] kbz p[] g[] p[] kuk ugha FkhA tc ml dh yk' k ys t[] kbz x[] b[] rks x[] s k p[] i pki mM+ x[] bA ; g[] k , d /k[] f[] ed efgyk dk "k[] nfp= x[] kFk l ekr gkrh gA

Q1. why was it hard for the author to belief that his grandmother was once young and pretty?

Looking at his grandmother who was short, fat and slightly stooped in stature, it was very difficult for him to believe the stories of his grandmother's beauty in her younger days.

The author had only seen and known his grandmother as an old woman. It had been the same situation for twenty years. As a child, therefore, he found it hard to believe that she was young and pretty once upon a time.

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nlh dh Nk/k ek/k dn] o >pls gq s "kj hj dks ns[krs gq mudsfy, vi uh nlh dh ;pk vlg I qj FkA I s t Mh I qjrk dh dglfu; ka ij fo'okl djuk cgr ef'dy FkA

y[ld us dny , d cka vlg r ds: i eagh vi uh nlh dks ns[kk vlg tkuk FkA chl I ky I smudh , d gh fLFkr FkA bl fy,) , d cPps ds: i ep mlga ;g fo'okl djuk dfBu yxrk Fk fd og , d I e; ij ;pk vlg I qj FkA

Q2.Mention three reasons why the author's grandmother was disturbed when he started going to the city school?

when the author started going to the city school his grandmother was disturbed because she could not help him with his lessons in english ..etc also she was unhappy when she heard that the author was being given music lessons and that there were no religious teachings about god and the scriptures at his school.

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Q3.what were the three ways in which author's grandmother spent her days after he went to school?

1. Reciting prayers.
2. Spinning the wheel.
3. Feeding sparrows.

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- 1- ckFkZukvka dks xkdjA
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- 3 xkjs kvka dks f[kykus ea

Q4.The grandmother had a divine beauty. How does the author bring this out?

The author brings out the inner beauty of the grandmother by comparing her to a snow covered winter landscape. This comparison shows her calmness and serenity.

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y[ld nlh dh vkrfd I qjrk dh fgekPNkfnr 'khrdlyhu ifj-'; I sryuk djrs gq s Li 'V djrk g\$;g rgyuk mudh 'kkarfi z; Nfo vlg "kkarfpUkrk fn [kkrh g\$

Q5. Mention the odd way in which the author's grandmother behaved just before she died.

The day when the author arrived from abroad was the day before her death. She broke her routine of praying and sang the songs of the home coming of the warriors on a withered drum along with the ladies of neighborhood.

i zu 5% ml vt h: r j h d s d k m Y y f k d j a f t l s y f k d d h n k h u s e R; q l s i o z f d; k

ml fnu tc y f k d f o n s k l s v k, r k s m u d h e R; q d s i o z d k f n u F k k A m l u g h a u s c k f k z u k d h v i u h f n u p; k z d k s r k m + f n; k v k s i m k d h e f g y k v k a d s l k f k ? k j y k s j g s ' k j o h j k a d s " k k s z h r k a d k s l v f k u s o k y s M e i j i m k d d s e f g y k v k a d s x k u s x k, A

Q6. Briefly describe the typical routine of the grandmother in the village and City.

During her village life, everyday she would prepare the author for school. She dressed him up, gave him breakfast and would accompany his grandson to school because his school was attached to the temple. While the children learned alphabets and prayer, the grandmother would read the scriptures at the temple. But after she came to the city, her relationship with author curtailed to an extent of silence, she couldn't accompany him to his school, cannot help him in his lessons. Instead she would spend her time at home spinning wheel, reciting prayers from sunrise to sunset, only in afternoon she relaxed to feed sparrows (her happiest time).

These were her routines in both village and city

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vi u s x k o d s t h o u d s n k s k u g j j l s t o g L d n y d s f y; s y f k d d k s r s k j d j r h F k h A m l u g a d i M s i g u k r h i m l u g a u k ' r k n s h v k s v i u s i k r s d s l k f k L d n y t k r h F k h A D; k i d m u d k L d n y e f i n j l s t m k g w k F k k A t c f d c P p s o. k e k y k v k s i k f k z u k l h [k r s f l s v k s n k h u s e f i n j e a / k e z k k L = k a d k s i < r h A y f d u ' k g j v k u s d s c k n] y f k d d s l k f k m l d k f j ' r k , d [k k e k s ' k h l s o; o / k k f u r g k s x; k j o g m u d s l k f k L d n y e a u g h a t k l d h a v k s m l u g a i k B k a e a e n n u g h a d j l d h A b l d s c t k; o g v i u k l e; ? k j i j d r k b z d s p j [l s i j f c r k r h F k h] l w k a n; l s l w k z r r d c k f k z u k d j r h] d o y n k i g j e a o g x l s s k v k a d k s f [k y k u s g q s d l n v k j k e d j r h F k h A] m u d k l c l s [k q k h d k l e; 1 / 2

; g x k o v k s ' k g j n k u k a e a m u d h f n u p; k z F k h A

Q7. How did the grandma shape the grandsons personality? What role did she play?

She had played the key role in her grandson's life from his childhood. She is the one who takes care of him from sunrise to sunset. She indirectly teaches how the person should lead life with god and scriptures, and thus the grandson has more attachment with his grandmother.

i zu 7% n k h u s i k r s d s o; f a r o d k s d s s v k d l j f n; k m l u s D; k H f e d k f u l H b d

m l u s c p i u l s g h v i u s i k r s d s t h o u e a e g R o i w k z H f e d k f u l H k k; k A o g , d e k = g s t l s l w k a n; l s l w k z r r d m l d h n s k k i k y d j r h g a o g v c R; { k : i l s; g f l [k r h g s f d d s s o; f a d k s b z o j v k s / k e z k k L = k a d s l k f k t h o u t h u k p l f g, v k s b l r j g l s i k r s d k v i u h n k h d s l k f k c g r v f / k d y x k o g a