

Chapter No. 9

The Tempest

A. Answer these questions.

Q1. Why does Prospero call Antonio a ‘false uncle’? How did Antonio usurp his position?

Ans: Prospero loved his brother Antonio very much and trusted him to run the government of Milan. He lost contact with his city and unknowingly awoke evil in the heart of his brother. Antonio became so thirsty for power that ultimately he drove Prospero and his three-year-old daughter out of Milan in mid sea at the mercy of God. For these reasons Prospero called Antonio a ‘false uncle’.

Prospero neglected all things related to ordinary life or politics and dedicated himself in order to improve his knowledge. He trusted Antonio very much and allowed him to rule over Milan. Antonio established his position by using all of Prospero’s wealth and began to believe that he was actually the duke. In this way Antonio usurped his position.

Q2. What does Miranda recall from her childhood?

Ans: Miranda could only recall that she had four or five women who took care of her.

Q3. How did Prospero make an exit from his kingdom with his daughter?

Ans: Antonio and the king of Naples decided to remove Prospero and his immediate family members from Milan. At midnight, on the date they had chosen to act, Antonio opened the gates of Milan and his agents drove Prospero and his daughter out from there. They hurried them onto a ship and carried them a few miles out to sea. There they had prepared a rotten shell of a boat that had no ropes, equipment, sails, or a mast. They lowered Prospero and his little daughter down into the roaring sea.

Q4. When Prospero met with misfortune, what comfort did his little daughter provide him?

Ans: When the sea roared back and the wind made Prospero uncomfortable, it was Miranda who kept him alive. She smiled with a strength and courage that came from heaven. That gave Prospero the courage to face whatever was going to come..

Q5. What qualities did Prospero possess that kept him moving?

Ans: Amidst hardship, Prospero had the courage to face whatever was going to come and he was known for his great intelligence. These qualities kept him moving.

Q6. Why is Miranda surprised to know about their real identity?

Ans: Miranda is surprised to know about their real identity as her father had kept the truth of her existence and how they ended up on that island for twelve long years. She was so shocked that she even doubted whether Prospero was her real father.

B. Answer these question with reference to the context.

1. *Thy father was the Duke of Milan. The prince of power....*

a. Who was the speaker?

Prospero was the speaker.

b. What was the turn of events in the speaker's life?

Prospero was the powerful Duke of Milan and was popular among his people. He trusted his brother Antonio very much and allowed him to run the government. Prospero had confined himself in studying secret topics and had lost contact with his city. In the process, he awoke evil in the heart of his brother. Antonio became so thirsty for power that he conspired with the king of Naples and ultimately drove Prospero and his three year old daughter Miranda out of Milan in mid sea in a wrecked boat. By the mercy of God, Prospero and his daughter reached an island and stayed there for twelve long years.

c. What other powers did the speaker possess?

Prospero had super natural power of magic with him.

2. *O the heavens! What foul play had we that we came from thence?*

a. Who was the speaker?

Miranda was the speaker.

b. Why is the speaker shocked and surprised?

Miranda came to know that twelve years ago her father Prospero had been the duke of Milan and she had been the princess. They, being the prey of conspiracy crafted by her uncle, were mercilessly driven out from there and had to lead a banished life in a lonely island. The contrast made her shocked and surprised.

c. Explain 'foul play'.

'Foul play' means a treacherous or an unfair dealing, especially involving risk of life and lots of damage.

Prospero, the duke of Milan, confined himself in studying secret topics and had lost contact with his city by trusting his brother Antonio to run the government. Antonio betrayed Prospero's trust by conspiring with the king of Naples. Then he drove Prospero and his three-year-old daughter Miranda out of Milan in mid sea in a wrecked boat.

3. *Good wombs have borne bad sons.*

a. Who is the speaker and whom is the speaker referring to?

Miranda is the speaker and she is referring to Antonio.

b. Who is the 'good womb' in this context?

The 'good womb' in this context is referred to Miranda's grand mother.

c. What were the bad deeds done by the 'sons'?

Antonio betrayed his brother Prospero by breaking his trust. To satisfy his hunger for power, he usurped Prospero of his dukedom with the help of Alonso, the king of Naples.