

BVP LKR

CLASS-12, SUBJECT-ENGLISH

DATE-06 / 05 /2021

(VISTAS) ----- THE ENEMY

----- Pearl S. Buck

SUMMARY:-

‘ The Enemy’, written by Pearl S.Buck, is a heart-rending portrayal of the conflict between a man’s heart and mind. This story beautifully depicts how a human being rises above his prejudices to help a wounded enemy. The central character, Dr. Sadao, had been sent to America by his father for higher studies as he wanted him to be a doctor. In America, he fell in love with Hana who finally became his wife after his father’s approval. After his father’s death he remained in Japan as a doctor. He was spending his days smoothly with his wife in a square stone house situated upon rocks well above a narrow beach.

One day, when Dr.Sadao was observing the beauty of nature with his wife outside their house, they caught sight of a staggering man who was supposed to be thrown (flung) out of the ocean. They stepped down the stairs to reach the man and found that the flung out fellow was an enemy soldier (an American) and was badly wounded.

Being a Japanese citizen with a sense of national loyalty, Dr Sadao thought of throwing the man back into the sea. But soon he realised his professional duty as a doctor, his sacred duty to save a dying man if he could. He rose above his narrow prejudices and took the wounded enemy soldier into his house. In spite of the risk involved in harbouring an enemy, he did not shirk away from his obligations as a doctor. Even though they faced open defiance from their domestic staff, they looked after the man as handing a dying enemy over to the police meant throwing him into the jaws of death. Thus, to respect the ethics of his profession he set aside all other considerations.

Dr Sadao treated the enemy with utmost care with the help of his wife and after he was fully cured, he got into a fix. The conflict was that the cured enemy was a threat to the doctor's family. Dr Sadao was sure to be arrested for lacking national loyalty by the General if he knew about the enemy's treatment at Dr Sadao's house.

The American prisoner, feeling burdened with gratitude towards the family, ultimately decided to comply with the escape plan of the doctor. On the other hand, the General was known to all these but he did not take the risk of living unprotected if the doctor was executed for treachery. (The General was Dr Sadao's patient and he did not trust except

him.) Although he assured the doctor that he would provide him personal assassins to kill the injured soldier but he failed to send them to Dr Sadao' house. The question rises here whether the General intentionally protected Dr Sadao's guilt and helped him to drive away the enemy safely or he really forgot to send his assassins.

Lastly Dr Sadao got rid of the enemy at night providing him his boat with other essential things as food, bottled water,two quilts and his own flash light. Thus,the story tells about how people can help even enemies on human grounds. The moral of the story is----" Even an enemy should be helped and sympathised in the name of humanity that is far above the feelings of nationalism."

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