

An Astrologer's Day

- R.K. Narayan

Character sketch of astrologer

In "An Astrologer's Day", the main character is the astrologer. He is an ordinary man who practices to be a genuine astrologer. At midday, he begins his job by seeking out people who need to know more about their future.

Punctually at midday he opened his bag and spread out his professional equipment, which consisted of a dozen cowrie shells, a square piece of cloth with obscure mystic charts on it, a notebook, and a bundle of palm-leaf writing.

In a prophetic like glare, he seeks out customers. They take his mysterious store as being genuine in that he knows something about ^{the} future. His forehead was ~~sculpt~~ resplendent with sacred ash and his eyes sparkled with a sharp abnormal gleam which was really an outcome of a continual searching look for customers, but which his simple clients took to be a prophetic light and felt comforted.

The astrologer worked in an area that had poor lighting.

At night he used the light of the neighbouring ~~to~~ vendors who sold nuts, fruits and ice cream to name a few things being sold. He did what had to do to earn a living.

When a client would sit down he would allow the client to talk for ten minutes by this time, the astrologer had enough information to go on. He could read people very well.

His job was one of guess work for "He knew no more of what was going to happen to others than he knew what was going to happen to himself the next minute"

Ques: Why does the astrologer give the stranger this particular advice about the stranger's past?

Ans: The astrologer gives the stranger an interesting piece of advice. He tells him to take the next train home and never to venture into town again. The astrologer gives the stranger

this piece of advice was a means of self-preservation. He recognises the stranger as the man he tried to kill after a drunken quarrel decade ago. ~~To pro~~ To protect himself, the astrologer tells the stranger a lie: that the man who tried to kill him (the stranger) is dead. When the stranger asked how his enemy died, the astrologer answered that he was crushed under a truck (lorry).

Ques 2 Why did the astrologer run away from his village?

Ans. The astrologer ran away from his village because of falls impression. The astrologer is a youngster drunk, gambled and quarrelled with other people. Once under the influence of alcohol he had fought with a man, stabbed and pushed him down a well. He thought that the man had died and ran away from his village to escape punishment.

Ques 3 Why was the place a remarkable one for astrologer to sit?

Ans. A surging crowd always moved up and down on that narrow road from morning till night, so it was a good place to catch clients. ~~who were~~

Ques 4 Who were the other traders who occupied that place?

Ans. Medicine sellers, sellers of stolen hardware and junk, magicians, and auctioneers of cheap cloth and a vendor of groundnuts occupied that place.

Ques 5 What was the reaction of astrologer's wife, seeing his day's earnings?

Ans. The astrologer's wife was very pleased that her husband had earned twelve and a half annas that day. She was also overjoyed because she could prepare some sweets for her daughter. The child has been asking for sweets for so many

days. so she decided to buy some jaggery and coconut with which she planned to prepare the sweets

Ques6 Describe the appearance of the astrologer.

Ans. On his forehead, the astrologer had smeared sacred ash and vermilion. There was something special about his eyes. There was a sparkle in them that attracted people. The light was mistaken as prophetic light by his simple customers even though it was nothing but the continuous searching look for customers that reflected through his eyes. He had dark mustache that came to his cheeks. To complete the look, he had saffron coloured turban as well.

Fill in the blanks:-

The astrologer had stabbed Gure Nayak in his village

His wife was waiting for him at the door and demanded an explanation

R. K. Narayan wrote the story, "An Astrologer's day"

The vendor attracted the customers by giving his nuts some fancy names

"Do you know, a great load is gone from me today."

The astrologer carried on his job under a tamarind tree

"People were attracted to him as bees are attracted to cosmos or dahlia stalks."

It is not ~~to~~ your fault, but that of your stars.

He had a working analysis of mankind's troubles.

"It was a remarkable place in many ways."

ASSIGNMENT:-

Ques. Where did the astrologer go after leaving his village?

Ques. What equipment did he use to impress his customers?

Ques. What happened one day when he was closing his shop.

Ques. Why did the astrologer become nervous seeing the stranger's face?

Ques. What was the colour of his turban and when did he close his shop?