

Class- xii

Subject - English

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The Enemy - line by line explanation-

“He has escaped.” Hana cried softly, “and that is why he is wounded.”

“In the back,” Sadao agreed.

They hesitated, looking at each other. Then Hana said with resolution:

“Come, are we able to put him back into the sea?”

Word Meaning

Wounded Injured

Resolution Determination, Decisive

Hana said that the man had escaped from the prison. That is why he was wounded. Sadao added that the man was wounded at his back. They looked at each other. Then Hana asked in a decisive voice if they can put him back into the sea.

“If I am able, are you?” Sadao asked.

“No,” Hana said, “But if you can do it alone...”

Sadao told Hana if he can put him back into the sea, can she also do it. Hana replied in negative. She said he should do it alone.

Sadao hesitated again. “The strange thing is,” he said, “that if the man were whole I could turn him over to the police without difficulty.”

Sadao hesitated. He said that he had strange feelings. If the man was not injured he could have handed him over to the police without any difficulty.

I care nothing for him. He is my enemy. All Americans are my enemy. And he is only a common fellow. You see how foolish his face is. But since he is wounded...”

“You also cannot throw him back to the sea,” Hana said.

Sado continued.

He did not care for the man. The man was his enemy. Sadao said that all American are his enemy. The man was just a common person. But he is wounded. So we cannot throw him back into the sea.

Hana said. "Then there is only one thing to do. We must carry him into the house."
"But the servants?" Sadao inquired.

Hana said that in that case we would have to take him to our home, Sadao asked what will servants think about it.

"We must simply tell them that we intend to give him to the police — as indeed we must, Sadao. We must think of the children and your position. It would endanger all of us if we did not give this man over as a prisoner of war."

Hana said that they must tell servants that he would be given to the police. And we must actually do it. We must think of our children. You should think of your position. If we do not hand him over as prisoner war, we will be in danger.

"Certainly," Sadao agreed. "I would not think of doing anything else."
Thus agreed, together they lifted the man. He was very light, like a fowl that had been half-starved for a long time until it is only feathers and skeleton.

Word Meaning
Fowl A type of bird

Sadao agreed with Hana. He said that he would not think of doing anything else. So they both had agreed to hand over the man to police. They lifted the man. He was very light. He was like a bird who had not taken food for long time. Such bird would have weight of only its feathers and its bones.

So, his arms hanging, they carried him up the steps and into the side door of the house. This door opened into a passage, and down the passage they carried the man towards an empty bedroom.

Sadao and Hana started carrying the man to their house. His arms were hanging down. They carried him through the side door of the house and then through passage of the house to an empty bedroom.

It had been the bedroom of Sadao's father, and since his death it had not been used. They laid the man on the deeply matted floor.

Word Meaning

Deeply matted floor Floor with thick carpet

That was the bedroom of father of Sadao. His father had died. Now nobody used that bedroom. The floor had thick carpet. They laid the man on the floor.

Everything here had been Japanese to please the old man, who would never in his own home sit on a chair or sleep in a foreign bed.

Word Meaning

Please To make happy, Wish

In this bedroom everything was Japanese because that was the desire of his father. He never used a chair or slept on a bed that was made in foreign.

Hana went to the wall cupboards and slid back a door and took out a soft quilt. She hesitated. The quilt was covered with flowered silk and the lining was pure white silk.
"He is so dirty," she murmured in distress.

Hana took out a soft quilt from the cupboard of the room. It had design of flowers on it. Its lining was of pure white silk. She spoke in a low voice that the man was very dirty. She was sad because the quilt will become dirty.

"Yes, he had better be washed," Sadao agreed.
"If you will fetch hot water I will wash him."
"I cannot bear for you to touch him," she said.

Word Meaning

Bear Tolerate

Sadao agreed with his wife Hana and said that the man needed to be cleaned. He asked Hana to bring some hot water. He will clean the man. Hana said she cannot tolerate that Sadao should touch the man.

“We shall have to tell the servants he is here. I will tell Yumi now. She can leave the children for a few minutes and she can wash him.”

Hana said she will need to inform servants that a white man was at their house. She said she will inform Yumi. Hana thought that Yumi could be away from their children for some time. She can come to the bedroom and wash the man.

Sadao considered a moment. “Let it be so,” he agreed. “You tell Yumi and I will tell the others.”

Sadao thought about it for some time and then agreed. He suggested that Hana should inform Yumi and he will inform other servants.

But the utter pallor of the man’s unconscious face moved him first to stoop and feel his pulse. It was faint but it was there. He put his hand against the man’s cold breast. The heart too was yet alive.

Word	Meaning
Utter	Severe
Pallor	Yellow colour
Stoop	To bend
Faint	Slow, Dim

Sadao saw that the face of the unconscious man was completely yellow. So Sadao bent over him and felt his pulse. The pulse was slow but he could feel it. Then Sadao put his hand on the chest of the man. The heart was also beating.

“He will die unless he is operated on,” Sadao said, considering. “The question is whether he will not die anyway.”
Hana cried out in fear. “Don’t try to save him! What if he should live?”
“What if he should die?” Sadao replied.

Sadao said that if the man was not operated, he would die. He considered if the man would die during operation. Hana got afraid and shouted that Sadao should not try to save him. What will they do if the man lived? Sadao asked her what they will do if the man died. (Sadao is talking about death of the man during operation).