

The Enemy by Pearl S Buck

1. During the World War an American prisoner of war is washed ashore in a dying state and is found at the doorstep of a Japanese doctor.

2. The whole fiction very poignantly deals with the doctor's moral perplexity as regards making a choice between saving the dying man as a doctor and handing him over to the Army as a patriot.

3. The story involves a doctor's moral and ethical duties at professional level and patriotic devotion at national level. Moreover he can't forget his familial duties as well.

4. Dr. Sadao Hoki is not only a good surgeon but also an accomplished scientist. He is perfecting a discovery that will render wounds entirely clean.

5. Sadao is kept in Japan instead of sending him abroad along with the troops because the General might need an operation for a condition for which he was being treated medically at the moment.

6. Apart from enjoying the status of being the best Japanese surgeon, Sadao is also an extraordinarily good individual. His efforts to respond to the moral duties as a human being as well as the ethical call of his profession give him nearly a godly stature.

7. Sadao's father inculcated in him great values of patriotic devotion and national loyalty when the latter was very young. Sadao has grown up with such great

values that it is now quite impossible for him not to respond to the call of his loyalty to the nation. Sadao ,as a dutiful son waits for his father's approval to marry Hana, whom he met in America while pursuing his studies.

8. Interestingly enough, Hana, Sadao's wife, supports Sadao through and through. She solemnly considers it her sacred duty to help and support her beloved husband who has been going through an inexplicable mental trauma.

9. The servants resent their decision to help the American soldier and abandon the house. On the other hand this is not unknown to Sadao that his wife has been going through a lot of trouble for his sake. This pains him so much that he decides to get rid of the white man as early as possible.

10. He reports the enemy soldier to the general who offers to send his assassins to kill him. Even while saying so, the general has his own health on his mind. He can not afford to lose the doctor if he is caught helping the enemy soldier.

11. Despite all moral dilemma, he listens to his heart every time and takes the right decision and his wife Hana very gently follows him.

12. At last the general forgets to keep his promise, which gives Sadao an opportunity to reconsider his decision. He gives the soldier a boat, food ,bottled water and quilts and asks him to wait for a Korean fishing boat to escape.

Short Answer Questions

1. What kind of a person was Sadao's Father?
- 2.. Why did Sadao wait before falling in love with Hana?
- 3.. Give two reasons why Sadao was not sent abroad with the troops.
4. In which condition did Sadao and Hana find the man? How did they establish his identity?
5. What superstitious beliefs of the servants made them oppose Sadao's decision to give shelter to the injured man?
6. Why did Sadao decide to treat the injured man?
7. What did the servants think about Sadao's sheltering an enemy?
- 8.. How did Hana react to the servants leaving the house?
9. What plan did the General suggest to get rid of the prisoner?
- 10.. Why couldn't the General's plan of eliminating the prisoner succeed?
11. What things did Sadao provide for the wounded prisoner on the boat?

12.. “But Sadao searching the spot of black in the twilight sea that night, had

his reward’’. What was the reward?

Answer the following in 125-150 words

1. Dr. Sadao and Hana rise above man -made divisions to serve the nobler cause of humanity.

Discuss with reference to the story.

2. What efforts were made by Dr. Sadao and Hana to save the life of the injured man?

3. Hana plays an instrumental role in saving the life of the injured prisoner. Give an account of her role in the light of this statement.

4. How did the servants react to the efforts made by Sadao and Hana to save the prisoner’s life?

Suggested Answers

1. A proud Japanese man, ambitious father, inculcated a sense of responsibility and national pride in Sadao

2. wanted to make sure she was of Japanese race, waited for his father’s approval

3. was a famous surgeon and scientist, perfecting the art of healing wounds. the old General of Japan had full faith in his abilities as a surgeon, did not believe any other doctor, could require a surgery any time, so Sadao was not sent with the troops abroad

4. wounded man out of the sea, staggering, sat on his knees, became unconscious, gun wound, bleeding, his battered cap had U.S Navy written

5. believed that the man was shot and the sea wounded him with rocks, if he is saved then these will take revenge on them

6.as a doctor considers it to be his moral duty to save an injured man, true to his ethical duties to his profession,

7. his servants were frightened, they thought that the enemy must die, thought that Sadao and Hana had forgotten to think of their own country, were afraid of being branded as traitors,

8.dismayed, terrified, did not show her emotions, paid them and thanked them for their services,

9. The General volunteered to help Sadao by sending his personal assassins to kill the soldier, without any noise or a drop of blood

10 The General had an attack and according to Dr. Sadao he could not survive

the second attack., forgot to keep his promise.

11. He gives the soldier a boat, food ,bottled water and quilts and asks him to wait for a Korean fishing boat to escape.

12. The “reward” was the escape of the enemy-Dr. Sadao searched the spot of black

in the twilight sea that night- see if the man was still there-but there was no light.

Obviously the man had gone- The escape of the prisoner was his reward.

Sample Answers

Q1.How did Dr. Sadao rise above narrow prejudices of race and country to help a human being in need?

A.1.Dr. Sadao had grown up believing that the Japanese were a superior race. He also disliked Americans because of his unpleasant experiences in America where he faced racial bias. Despite this he could not let the young soldier bleed to death. His ethical duties of doctor won over narrow prejudices.

Q.2.Discuss the General’s role in the story.

A.2. Sadao was kept back in Japan because the General would be needing a surgery. General Takima beat his wife but no one spoke about it after he fought a victorious battle in Manchuria. Hana thought that he would be cruel to his enemy. When Sadao told him about the American soldier, he felt assured of Sadao's skills as a surgeon. To save the doctor he offered to send his private assassins to get rid of the American. In his pain, he forgot all about his promise. Infact his self obsessed behaviour is in sharp contrast to Sadao's selfless service to the soldier at the risk of his own life. His knowledge of the wounded soldier makes him a party to the same guilt as Sadao. The General's suggestion makes Sadao realize his own feelings and helps him plan the soldier's escape.