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ENGLISH

CHAPTER 1: A LETTER TO GOD



A LETTER TO GOD

~Summary~

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Lencho's Hope of Good Harvest

Lencho was a farmer who lived on the crest (peak) of a low hill with his family. His was the only house in the entire valley. His field was full of ripe corn and easily visible from the house. He was eagerly waiting for a good rain to have a good harvest so he could earn money for his family.

Turning of Lencho's Hope into Despair

As Lencho hoped, it started raining at the time of supper (dinner) which gave Lencho a ray of hope. He was extremely delighted to see that. He compared the raindrops with silver coins which shows his joy. But soon his joy turned into despair as the rain changed into hailstones which ruined the crops. The field had been covered with snow like a layer of white salt. Lencho was worried for his family.

Lencho's Firm Belief in God

Though Lencho was a poor farmer and had lost all his crops, he had firm faith in God. He found in God his last hope and decided to write a letter to God for help. He asked God to send him a hundred pesos so that he could sow his field again and support his family until the new crops were harvested. He also wrote that if God didn't help him, his family would die of hunger.

He told the teacher that he should not spread the poison of social inequality and communal intolerance in the minds of innocent children. The teacher accepted his mistake.

The Postmaster's Reaction to Lencho's Letter

After reading Lencho's letter to God, the postmaster laughed but soon realised that Lencho had firm faith in God and his belief should not be shaken. So, he decided to help Lencho with the help of his post office employees. He collected seventy pesos and handed the envelope to Lencho himself in which he also contributed a part of his salary.

Lencho Addresses the Post Office Employees 'A Bunch of Crooks'

Lencho became angry when he saw seventy pesos in the envelope as he had demanded a hundred pesos. He did not believe that God could do such a mistake and send him less money. So, he decided to write a letter again for the rest of money. In this letter, he requested God not to send the rest of the money through the money order because he thought that the post office employees were a 'bunch of crooks' who might have stolen his money.

Conclusion of A letter to God

In the chapter – A Letter to God, we learnt that faith in God has the power to move mountains and satisfy our needs. However, it should also be noted that humanity also prevails in the midst of one's faith in the Almighty. This story beautifully sketches Lencho's deep faith in God and how the post office employees helped him anonymously by contributing money from their pockets to help the poor man in crisis.

NCERT SOLUTION

Questions (Page No. 5-7)

(ORAL COMPREHENSION CHECK)

Question. 1 What did Lencho hope for?

Answer: Lencho hoped for rains as the only thing that his field of ripe corn needed was a shower.

Question. 2 Why did Lencho say the raindrops were like 'new coins'?

Answer: Lencho's crops were ready for harvest. All it needed was a good downpour before harvesting. These fully grown crops could be sold in the market for good money. That is why he compared the raindrops to 'new coins'. The big drops were as good as receiving ten cent pieces and the little ones five.

Question. 3 How did the rain change? What happened to Lencho's fields?

Answer: The rain was pouring down. But suddenly, a strong wind began to blow and very large hailstones began to fall along with the rain. The hail rained on the valley for an hour, because of which Lencho's fields were destroyed. There was not a single leaf left on the trees and the flowers were gone from the plants. The corn was completely destroyed.

Question. 4 What were Lencho's feelings when the hail stopped?

Answer: When the hail stopped, Lencho's soul was filled with sadness. He looked around at his fields and said that even a plague of locusts would have left more than what was left after the hailstorm. He said that they would have no corn that year and they would go hungry. He was full of sorrow.

Question. 5 Who or what did Lencho have faith in? What did he do?

Answer: Lencho had faith in God. He had been instructed that God's eyes see everything, even what is deep in one's conscience. Therefore, he wrote a letter to God expressing his need for a hundred pesos so that he could sow his field again and live until the crop grew again.

Question. 6 Who read the letter?

Answer: When the postman saw that the letter was addressed to God, he laughed and took the letter to the postmaster, who then read it.

Question. 7 What did the postmaster do then?

Answer: In order to keep the writer's faith in God alive, the postmaster decided to answer the letter. When he read that Lencho needed hundred pesos, he asked for money from his employees. He himself gave a part of his salary. He could not gather the entire amount, but

managed to send Lencho a little more than half the amount. He put the money in an envelope addressed to Lencho and signed it 'God'.

Question. 8 Was Lencho surprised to find a letter for him with money in it?

Answer: No, Lencho was not at all surprised to see the letter from God with money inside it. His confidence and faith in God was such that he had expected that reply from God.

Question. 9 What made him angry?

Answer: Lencho got angry when he counted the money. There were only seventy pesos in the envelope. He was confident that God could neither make a mistake nor deny him what he had requested. Therefore, he concluded that the post office employees must have taken the remaining thirty pesos.

Questions (Page No. 7-8)

(THINKING ABOUT THE TEXT)

Question. 1 Who does Lencho have complete faith in? Which sentences in the story tell you this?

Answer: Lencho had complete faith in God. The sentences in the story that show this are as follows:

- But in the hearts of all who lived in that solitary house in the middle of the valley, there was a single hope: help from God.
- All through the night, Lencho thought only of his one hope: the help of God, whose eyes, as he had been instructed, see everything, even what is deep in one's conscience.
- "God," he wrote, "if you don't help me, my family and I will go hungry this year."
- He wrote 'To God' on the envelope, put the letter inside and, still troubled, and went to town.
- God could not have made a mistake, nor could he have denied Lencho what he had requested.
- It said: "God: of the money that I asked for, only seventy pesos reached me. Send me the rest, since I need it very much."

Question. 2 Why does the postmaster send money to Lencho? Why does he sign the letter 'God'?

Answer: The postmaster sent money to Lencho in order to keep Lencho's faith in God alive. He turned serious when he read Lencho's letter and wished he had the same faith in God. Even after he saw that Lencho had requested for money, he stuck to his resolution of answering the letter. He gathered as much money as he could and sent it to Lencho. He signed it 'God' so that Lencho's faith would not get shaken.

Question. 3 Did Lencho try to find out who had sent the money to him? Why/Why not?