

## SUPPLEMENTARY UNIT 1

### GOD SEES THE TRUTH, BUT WAITS

- Leo Tolstoy

#### PUBLIC EXAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in a paragraph in about 150 words each.

- a. Discuss the meaning and importance of the saying “God Sees the Truth But waits”. (PTA-5)

An important element of the story is that the truth comes out, but only after waiting a long time. The reader knows from the beginning that Aksionov is **innocent**. A clever reader also figures out fairly early that Makar Semyonich must be the real **villain**. Justice, however, is not arrived at, until the very end of the story, when years later after the crime. Makar **confesses** and Aksionov dies as a contented man. The author is **cynically** pointing out that justice sometimes arrives too late. But we must have faith that God will eventually bring justice to every **situation**.

- b. Forgiveness is the best form of revenge. Substantiate the statement with reference to the story. (PTA-2)

It is very easy to take revenge, but it is very difficult to forgive others. It needs a broad and great heart. It is common for a person to make a mistake but forgiveness is an attribute of God. **Forgiveness** is the best form of taking **revenge**, as it makes the opponent to suffer from a sort of **humiliation**.

In this story, though Makar had murdered a merchant and he was the cause for the twenty-six years imprisonment of Aksionov, he was forgiven by Aksionov. This act of Aksionov made Makar suffer humiliation and he admitted his fault to the authorities. He wept bitterly and beat his head on the floor. Thus Aksionov's forgiveness is the best form of revenge on Makar.

#### PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS

Write a paragraph in about 150 words by developing the following hints:

1. Ivan Dmitrich - Merchant - Russia - decides - business venture - Wife - bad dream - Ivan disregards - meets another merchant - travel together - retrieve separately - Stopped by - police - Sentenced - Siberia - new prisoners came - discloses the fact - Makar - admits - Aksionov dies. (OR) (PTA-3)

Aksionov - Vladimir - bade good bye - wife had a bad dream - charged with murdering a merchant - driven to Siberia - Makar Semyonich confessed - Aksionov was already dead - order for his release. (HY-'19)

(OR)

Aksionov - imprisoned - murder not committed by him - 26 years in prison - hair turned grey - lean and thin - pray to God - called 'Saint' by mates - lived peacefully - died peacefully. (OR) (QY-'19)

Aksionov - Vladimir - trip to a fair - wife tried to stop - meets a merchant - stays in an inn - police arrested - murder charge - no mercy - sent to Siberia - grew old - inmates respected - met Makar Semyonich - found out the truth - Semyonich admitted his crime - Aksionov forgave - died at last. (OR)

Ivan Dmitrich Aksionov - lived - Vladimir - wife and children - trip - Nizhny Fair - wife - bad dream - not to start - local police - arrested Aksionov - charged with murder - petition - turned down - sent - mines of Siberia - grew old - frequently prayed to God - respected by inmates - gentle behaviour - one day - met - Makar Semyonich - Aksionov - found out the truth - Makar admitted - Aksionov - forgave - died in peace. (August 2021)

(OR)

Ivan Dmitrich Aksionov - young merchant - sets out to fair - against wife's warning - stays in an inn - next morning sets off - gets arrested - supposed to have killed the merchant - is sent to Siberia - spends the time reading and praying - gains respect - Makar Semyonich - comes there - seems to know Aksionov - his behaviour makes Aksionov suspect - finally learns that Makar had murdered - the merchant - Aksionov forgives Makar - orders of release arrive - Aksionov is dead. (May-2022)

Aksionov lived with his wife and children in the town of Vladimir. One day, he decided to make a trip to the fair. His wife tried to stop him because she had a bad dream. Aksionov disregards his wife's dream and leaves for the fair. He meets another merchant and stays with him in an inn. Next day, at dawn, he leaves the inn to go to the fair. But the local police officer arrested and charged him with a murder of the merchant. A petition of mercy was turned down and he felt devastated. He was sent to work in the mines of Siberia. He grew old there. Aksionov frequently prayed to God. He bought the book 'The Lives of the Saints' in prison. He was respected by all the inmates due to his gentle behaviour. One day, he met Makar Semyonich and found out the truth about him. Eventually, Makar Semyonich admitted his crime. Aksionov forgave him, accepted the truth, attained self-realization and died in peace.

2. Ivan Dimitrich Aksionov - merchant in Vladimir - prone to drinking - goes to fair on business - meets another merchant - retire separately - stopped by the police - charged of murder and robbery - sentenced and sent to Siberia - 26 years in jail - new prisoner Maker Semyonich - admits his crime - Aksionv dies. (Govt. MQP)

(OR)

Aksionov - young merchant of Vladimir - lives with family - goes to Nizhny fair - meets a merchant friend - during travel - stays in an inn - leaves inn before daybreak - gets arrested - innocent prisoner - accused of murder - spends 26 years in prison - meets Makar - Aksionov saves Makar - Makar feels guilty - confesses his Crime - Aksionov forgives criminal - dies peacefully. (OR) (Sep. 2020)

Ivan Dmitrich Aksionov - Young merchant - lived - Vladimir - Nizhny fair - wife - bad dream - stayed at inn - met another merchant - murdered at night - Aksionov arrested - petition rejected - sent - mines of Siberia - 26 years - grew - old - gentle - prayed often - respected by inmates - one day - met - another prisoner - found out - he murderer - Makar confessed - Aksionov forgave - died in peace - before order - for release came.

(July-'22)

Ivan Dmitrich Aksionov was a merchant. He lived with his wife and children in the town of Vladimir, in Russia. When he was young, he was prone to drinking, but after marriage he gave it up. One day, he went to the Nizhny fair. During his travel, he met another merchant. He stayed with him in an inn. Next day he left the inn before dawn. On the way, a local police officer arrested him. Aksionov was accused of murder. He was sentenced and sent to Siberia prison. For twenty-six years he lived as a convict. His hair turned grey. He often prayed to God. His fellow-prisoners called him as a Saint. One day, he met a new prisoner, Makar Semyonich and found out that he was the man who had killed the merchant. Later Makar dug a hole to escape from the prison. The Governor came and questioned all the prisoners to find out who had dug the hole. Though Aksionov knew that Makar was the culprit, he did not reveal. Thus he saved Makar. Eventually, Makar felt guilty and admitted his crime. Aksionov forgave him, accepted the truth, attained self-realisation and died in peace.

3. Aksionov - made a trip to a fair - wife stopped him - bad dream - local police officer arrested - charged him murder - blood stained knife - Aksionov swore he had not done - imprisoned - wife met him in jail - saw her husband - fell down - reminded him her dream - asked for truth - suspected him - Aksionov wept - said good bye to his family. (FRT-'22)

Leo Tolstoy in his short story 'God sees the Truth but Waits' presents two characters – Aksionov and Makar Semeyonich. In Russia during the nineteenth century, a young, attractive businessman named Ivan Dmitrich Aksionov lived with his wife and children. Although he had been a bit wild in his youth, he had now settled down and lived a responsible, productive life. One day he decided to make a trip to a fair where he could sell some of his merchandise. Although his wife had a bad dream about this trip, Aksionov decided to proceed. He was a very plain minded man but unfortunately he was wrongly accused of a murder. He was sent to a prison in Siberia. In the later part Makar was introduced as the real culprit of the murder. This time he was caught for another crime and came to Siberia. Makar realised that Aksionov was punished for his crime but he was not willing to reveal this. Aksionov become very composed and accepted his situation. Once he had a chance to stand against Makar but he did not do it. This touched the heart of Makar and made him ask pardon from Aksionov.

4. Aksionov prayed in jail - grew old - read a book - petition of mercy - respected by inmates - gentle behaviour - met Makar Semyonich - did not accept his proposal to escape - Makar realised - confessed - found out the truth - forgave Makar - Makar confessed - Aksionov found dead - order for his release. (FRT-'22)

Leo Tolstoy in his short story 'God Sees the Truth But Waits' describes the story of Aksionov, who was wrongly punished for a murder. Although Aksionov strongly said that he was not guilty, he was arrested and charged with the murder. Even his wife wondered if he might have been involved, since the circumstantial evidence was so striking. When his wife suspected him he hid his face in his hand and wept. He said to himself that only God alone seemed to know the truth. It was only to Him alone he could appeal. Only from God could he expect mercy. Then he stopped writing any appeal for mercy to the government. He only prayed to God. After being severely flogged, he was sent to work in the mines in Siberia. During his twenty-six years of imprisonment there, his hair turned white, his happy-go-lucky personality disappeared, and his body began to weaken. He never showed any sign of happiness and he frequently prayed to God.

