



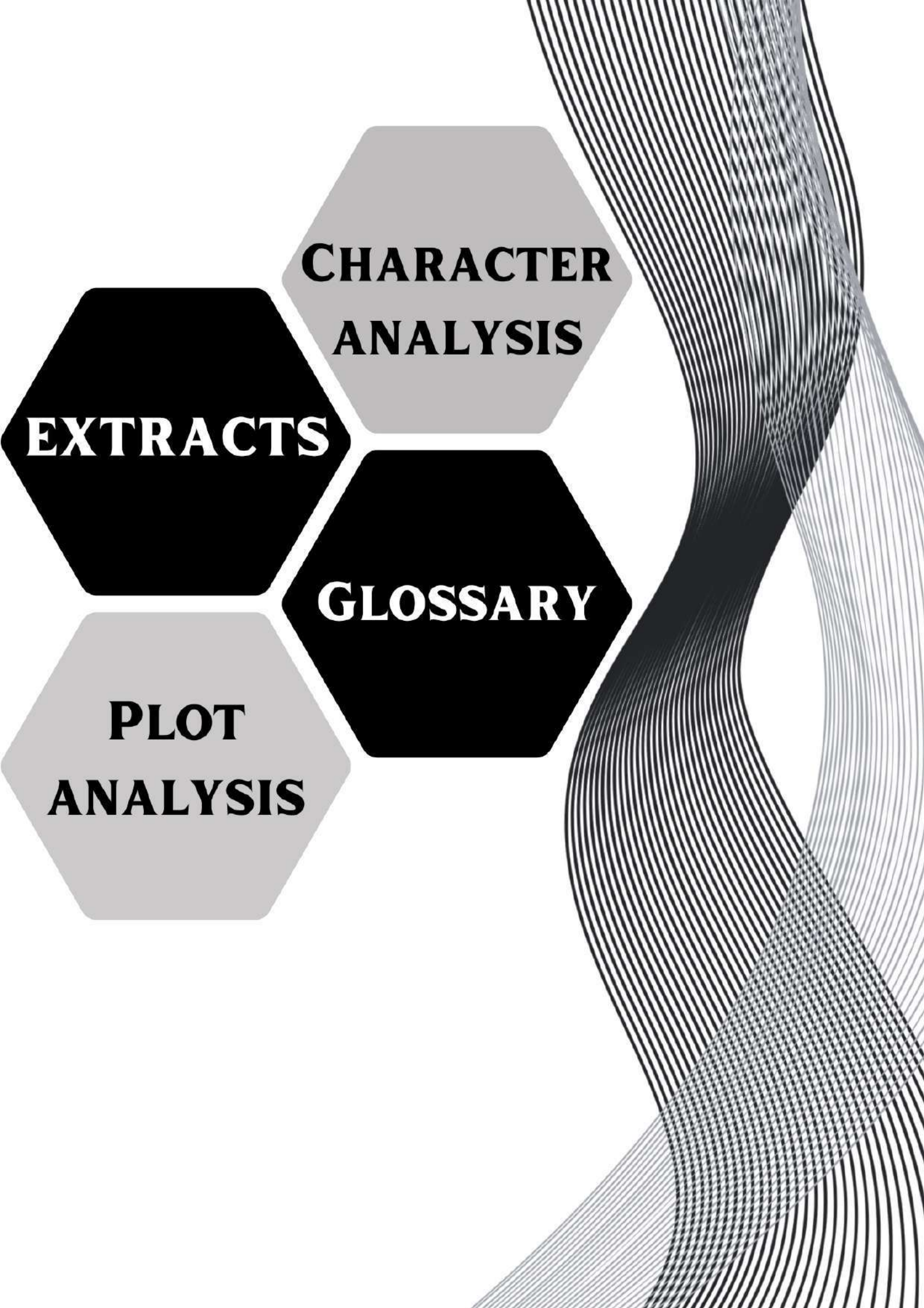
ENGLISH LITERATURE

G. C. E. ORDINARY LEVEL

**VENDOR
OF
SWEETS**

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NOVEL



**CHARACTER
ANALYSIS**

EXTRACTS

GLOSSARY


**PLOT
ANALYSIS**



CHAPTER 1

Useful Quotations

- **“do not know, but all our sages advise us so.”** → Jagan blindly following things he has heard from wise men.
- **“Jagan sat under the framed picture of goddess Lakshmi hanging on the wall, and offered prayers first thing in the day.”** → Jagan as a very religious person.
- **“The listener was a cousin, though how he came to be called so could not be explained”** → cousin’s character trait
- **“He was a man-about-town.”** → cousin’s character trait
- **“Everyone wants me to attend to this or that.”** → cousin’s character trait
- **At fifty-five his appearance was slight and elfish, his brown skin was translucent, his brow receded gently into a walnut shade of baldness, and beyond the fringe his hair fell in a couple of speckled waves on his nape. His chin was covered with whitening bristles, as he shaved only at certain intervals, feeling that to view oneself daily in a mirror was an intolerable European habit. He wore a loose jibba over his dhoti, both made of material spun with his own hand, every day he spun for an hour, retained enough yarn for his sartorial requirements (he never possessed more than two sets of clothes at a time), and delivered all the excess in neat bundles to the local hand-loom committee in exchange for cash. He wore a narrow almond-shaped pair of glasses set in a yellowish frame, and peeped at the world over their pale rims. He draped his shoulders in a khaddar shawl with gaudy yellow patterns on it and shod his feet with thick sandals made out of the leather of an animal which had died of old age.** → Jagan’s appearance and character traits.
- **Being a follower of Gandhi, he explained, “I do not like to think that a living creature should have its throat cut for the comfort of my feet.”** → Jagan’s character trait
- **The presence of the leather at home threatened to blast his domestic life** → collapse of the family due to Jagan’s beliefs.
- **“Throw away the leather.”** → Jagan’s wife’s last wish.
- **The cousin, satisfied with the effect he had produced, tried to restore his mood with a pleasing remark.** → cousin’s character trait (sarcasm and wit)
- **“I have given up rice too. I cook a little stone-ground wheat and take it with honey and greens.”** → Jagan’s character trait
- **“Jagan did not like his cash to be watched.”** → Jagan’s character trait
- **Strategically placed so that he could keep an eye on all sides of his world of confections.** → Jagan’s character trait
- **Jagan noticed nothing, his gaze unflinchingly fixed on the Sanskrit lines in a red-bound copy of the Bhagavad Gita, but if there was the slightest pause in the sizzling, he cried out, without lifting his eyes from the sacred text,** → Jagan’s character trait
- **“Captain, that beggar should not be seen here except on Fridays. This is not a charity home.”** → Jagan’s character trait
- **Although the boy at the front stall received all the cash, he was not supposed to know the total.** → Jagan’s character trait
- **“It bothered him to think of the leftovers.” “He loved to see clean shining trays return to the kitchen at the end of a day.”** → Jagan’s character trait
- **“which was padded with a folded towel in order to muffle the sound of coin being emptied from the bronze jug.”** → Jagan’s character trait



Glossary

1. Sages - wise men
2. Reverently - very respectfully
3. Crevice- a crack
4. Imperceptibly - (unnoticeable) gradually
5. Incompatible - opposite/ not matching
6. Overwhelm - shock
7. Sceptic - someone who doubts
8. Genealogy - family relation through genes
9. Invariably - always
10. Grudge - hate
11. Palavered - gossiped
12. Wry - annoyed/ irritated
13. Coarse - rude/ impolite
14. Disembodied - without a body
15. Grime - soil
16. Elfish - short
17. Translucent - can see blood veins through the skin
18. Recede - fade/ reduce
19. Speckled - different coloured
20. Nape - back of the neck
21. Intolerable - unable to bear/ too much
22. Jibba - A long coat
23. Dhoti - similar to a sarong wrapped around the waist and legs to resemble a trouser
24. Retained - kept
25. Yarn - string
26. Sartorial - making of clothes
27. Sentimental - emotional
28. Commended - praised/ admired
29. Peeped - looked
30. Rims - edge
31. Draped - put loosely
32. Khaddar Shawl - a large piece of cloth worn over the shoulder, made of natural fiber
33. Gaudy - very bright
34. Shod - put on shoes
35. Excursions - journeys
36. Hide - animal skin
37. Stench - bad smell
38. Prolonged - for a long period of time
39. Dislocation - disturbance
40. Hazardous - harmful
41. Nibble - bite
42. Harrowed - troubled
43. Deference - respect
44. Stirred - moved slightly
45. Monarch - king
46. Hoisted - placed high
47. Platform - a raised up surface
48. Confections - sweets
49. Extricate - get out/ release
50. Loft - storage room



51. Substituted - replaced
52. Bare - uncovered
53. Mount - support
54. Gazed - looked at for long
55. Obscure - mysterious
56. Laden - heavily loaded
57. Unflinchingly - strongly
58. Routine - habitual
59. Slackness - less active
60. Doze off - fall asleep
61. Hushed - silenced
62. Paisa - a unit in Indian currency
63. Ladle - spoon
64. Seer - approximately 933g
65. Unobtrusively - quietly/ humbly
66. Rankled - annoyed
67. Splinter - fracture/ crack
68. Resisting - avoiding
69. Muffle - cover up/ hide
70. Virtuoso - expert/ highly skilled in music
71. Entries - records/ notes
72. Ledger - record book (for finances)
73. Immaculate conception - something of a clean origin/ start
74. Crisp - fresh
75. Tugged - pulled
76. Seized - grabbed/ held
77. Jerk - shake
78. Foundry - metal workshop
79. Expatiate - explain at length
80. Locksmiths - a person who makes locks

CHAPTER 2

Useful Quotations

- **A heap of stone on the roadside, kept there since the first municipal body was elected in Free India in 1947 and meant for paving the road** → political situation in India
- **Truth Printing although it was shut in deference to the Shopping Hours Act.** → law in India
- **The book had been in the press for years out of count, his magnum opus on Nature Cure and Natural Diet.** → Jagan's character Trait.
- **"Must be home, the boy will be lonely. Not today."** → Jagan's love for Mali
- **Jutkas drove past him, the drivers urging their horses with shrill cries** → native Indian words/ reflection of culture
- **"The plates could be washed and kept-unlike the leaves, which are thrown out after dinner for vagrants to pick."** → Jagan's thoughts on national improvement/ no generosity

- **“He is a disgrace to the nation.”** → Jagan’s character (thoughts on a vagrant)
- **He spotted Mali by the deep yellow of his shirt, and the brief glimpse filled him with joy** → Jagan’s character/ love for Mali
- **Everything in this home had the sanctity of usage, which was the reason why no improvement was possible.** → traditional nature.
- **“Remember my father who died at ninety without a single tooth loose in his jaw.”** → Jagan’s character/ inherited beliefs
- **His wife refused to associate herself with any of his health-giving activities. She hated his theories and lived her own life.** → Clashes in the family.
- **“I’ll get you better things to eat than this pill. Forget it, you understand?”** → Jagan’s character

Glossary

1. Lull - quietness
2. Magnum Opus - most important book written by an author
3. Brooding - deep thinking
4. Introspective - self examining
5. Jutka - Indian word for a horse drawn carriage
6. Culvert - a drain under the road
7. Parapet - railings which cover the culvert on top
8. Vagrant - a homeless person
9. Cast out - throw out
10. Scour - wipe clean
11. Furlong - 1/8 of a mile
12. Throb - vibrate
13. Ramification - results
14. Confound - confused
15. Out skirting - bordering
16. Benignly - kindly
17. Hovering - hanging around
18. Courtyard - unroofed area
19. Enthralled - amazed
20. Firmament - sky
21. Poised - positioned
22. Unreservedly - honestly
23. Shack - hut
24. Corrugated - having folds/ wrinkled
25. Hinges - joints
26. Warped - damaged and twisted
27. Partial - half
28. Fronds - leaves
29. Horticultural - growing parts of the plant
30. Resounding - loud
31. Thud - crash/ sound
32. Thatched - covered with straw
33. Heap - pile/ load
34. Trained - fixed
35. Fetch - bring



36. Notion - idea
37. Vague - unclear
38. Litigations - legal action
39. Cauldron - a large metal pot for boiling liquids
40. Coconut rearing - growing coconuts
41. Twig - small branch/ stick
42. Margosa tree - a medicinal plant
43. Disentangle - find out
44. Imbibed - absorbed
45. Advent - origin/ invention
46. Adverse - harmful
47. In spite of - regardless of
48. Ambrosia - the food or drink of Greek gods
49. Cease - stop
50. Perennial - endless
51. Elated - extremely happy
52. Boughs - branches
53. Antityphoid - prevents typhoid fever
54. Floss - glamorous
55. Forbade - prohibited/ stopped
56. Temples - either sides of the forehead
57. Swayed - move side to side
58. Convinced - assured/ sure
59. Disheveled - made untidy
60. Ghoulish - horrible/ monstrous
61. Inexplicable - unexplainable
62. Suppressed - hold back/ control
63. Deliberate - careful
64. Ventilator - a system/ machine that lets air in
65. Fiddle - play
66. Inauspicious - unfavorable/ unlucky
67. Ominous - unfavorable/ unlucky

CHAPTER 3

Useful Quotations

- **"I don't want to study, that's all."** → Mali's character
- **In his anxiety to communicate a new idea to his father, he had become brusque and aggressive.** → Mali's character
- **He was a cowardly father and felt afraid to mention class or college.** → Jagan's character.
- **At home he spent all his time cooking for his son;** → Jagan's love for Mali
- **"Why do you bother when you keep saying one need not eat?"** → clash between Jagan and Mali.
- **"Your banalities can wait,"** → Cousin's character
- **If the public could have joined and sub-scribed, he'd have given away a portion of his profits in order to provide sweets for every child that gazed at his counter.** → Jagan's character

- **"Poor country! Most people cannot afford even rice for two meals a day."** → situation of the country
- **He had failed several times in the B.A., had ceased to attend the college, and had begun to take his examinations as a private candidate, long before the call of Gandhi.** → Jagan's character
- **The boy had retired and shut himself in his room without giving his father a chance to refer to the day's events.** → conflict between Jagan and Mali
- **"Writer" meant in Jagan's dictionary only one thing - a "clerk"-an Anglo-Indian, colonial term.** → Jagan's character.
- **Here he was trying to shape the boy into an aristocrat with a bicycle, college life, striped shirts, and everything, and he wanted to be a "writer"!** → conflict of tradition vs. Modernity
- **"I lost no time after you had told me this evening to go out in search of the boy."** → Cousin's character.
- **"Actually, it was difficult to get even that out of him."** → Mali's character.
- **"Even if you starved him and denied him everything he'd never complain."** → relationship between the cousin and Mali/ Mali's Character.
- **"Disgraceful that our nation cannot attack this problem of vagrants. Must do something about it, when I find the time."** → Jagan's character
- **"I know you don't like the Ananda Bhavan people. I know they cried to blackmail you with the sales tax."** → Jagan's character/ Cousin's character.
- **"Books must be treated respectfully, being a form of the goddess Saraswathi? How could this boy ever pass his B. A.?"** → Jagan's character.
- **"No hurry, no hurry. You can take your own time to return it to me,"** → Cousin's character.
- **"Hope that some day Mali will be another Kalidasa."** → Cousin's character.
- **Tucked a five-rupee note under the plate so that the boy might eat wherever he liked the rest of the day.** → Jagan's character.
- **He had never suspected that his zeal for education was going to ruin their relationship.** → Clash between Jagan and Mali.
- **"Boy, I like your idea. Come on, let us talk about it."** → Jagan's love for Mali.
- **"Do you want me to buy you white paper? Have you got a good pen? I think I had better get you a new desk with a Jot of drawers."** → Jagan's love for Mali.
- **"They are all ordinary fellows who are not good for anything else"** → Mali's character
- **"For twenty years," Jagan reflected, "he has grown up with me, under the same roof, but how little I have known him!"** → Generational gap
- **During the last ten particularly he had become excessively considerate, after the boy lost his mother.** → Jagan's love for Mali
- **He had been attending on his mother for many weeks now. In her rare moments of lucidity she beckoned to him, and accepted the diet if he fed her. He came running home from school in order to feed her, rarely going out to play with his friends.** → Mali's bond with his mother.
- **"I did it with a blade, under the very nose of the librarian,"** → Mali's character
- **"It's not like my generation; we came under the spell of Gandhi and could do no wrong."** → Jagan's character.
- **"I hope he will also emulate my philosophy of living. Simple living and high thinking, as Gandhi has taught us."** → Jagan's hope for Mali.
- **"But what I don't understand is why you should run a trade, make money, and accumulate it."** → Cousin's character.
- **"I have always resisted the use of essences for flavouring or colouring."** → Jagan's character.



Glossary

1. Aghast – shocked
2. Insistently – quickly
3. Semolina – Flour used in making pasta
4. Brusque – rude
5. Rein – control
6. Cowardly – lacking courage
7. Maternal – relating to the mother
8. Distinction – a clear difference/ high status
9. Desperately – hopelessly
10. Resolution – decision
11. Brood – worry
12. Exposition – explanation
13. Bolt – lock
14. Gong – metal bell
15. Grimly – seriously
16. Sighted – saw
17. Bewilderment – confusion
18. Flourished – grow well/ do well
19. Banalities – overused phrases/ things repeated always
20. Resignation – leaving
21. Bound to – likely to (happen)
22. Satiety – satisfaction
23. Satchels – school bag type of bag
24. Slung – hang/ throw
25. Gape – open wide
26. Vestige – remaining
27. Subscribe – buy regularly
28. Gaze – look for a long time
29. Restrained – controlled/ stopped
30. Merchant – a person who is buying and selling
31. Swamped – crowded/ overloaded
32. Profound – deep
33. Smacking – hitting
34. Sympathetically – showing kindness
35. Gloating – boasting/ speaking big about themselves
36. Abruptly – Suddenly
37. Reminiscent – similar/ reminder
38. Slurring – mumbling/ speaking unclearly
39. Sentimentally – emotionally
40. Impulse – sudden desire
41. Stroll – walking freely
42. Amidst – among/ in the middle of
43. Spurs – encouragements
44. Morbid – unhealthy mental state
45. Speculation – guess
46. Counterfeit – not original
47. Grip – hold/ grab
48. Conceal – hide
49. Contemptuously – without respect
50. Devise – make a plan

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51. Degrade – reduce in value
 52. Despair – hopeless
 53. Ecstatically –with great excitement
 54. Hasty – very quick
 55. Illiterate – unable to read or write
 56. Flounder – struggle
 57. Piqued – offended/ embarrass or hurt someone
 58. Officious – disturbing
 59. Anguished – extremely stressed
 60. Denied – rejected
 61. Encomiums – a formal praise
 62. Deafening – too loud
 63. Implore – request
 64. Lest – just in case
 65. Blunder – mistake
 66. Infuriate – make someone angry
 67. Savagely – uncontrollably/ rudely
 68. Beckoned – signal to come using the hand
 69. Insinuation – hint/ indication
 70. Horrid – horrible/ bad
 71. Gratify – please/ satisfy
 72. Gluttony – greed/ overeating
 73. Reimburse – pay back
 74. Precise – exact
 75. Ramble – talk a lot
 76. Interfered – disturbed
 77. Soothingly – making someone feel calm
 78. Agitation – distress/ worry
 79. Zeal – passion/ enthusiasm
 80. Delirium – excitement
 81. Reverberate – echo
 82. Moping – feeling sad
 83. Dejection – depression/ sadness
 84. Gloom – darkness/ sadness
 85. Stoop – bend down
 86. Squint – close eyes partly and look
 87. Irksome – awkward/ uneasy
 88. Breezily – happily
 89. Paced – walked
 90. Misgiving – doubt
 91. Affable – friendly
 92. Exuding – releasing/ showing
 93. Poised – balanced
 94. Topple – fall/ push
 95. Condescendingly -in a superior way
 96. Haughtily – arrogantly/ proudly
 97. Pathetically – helplessly
 98. Sullen – gloomy/ angry
 99. Rigorously – very carefully
 100. Astray – going off track
 101. Ominous – Threatening
 102. Harsh – strict/ rude
 103. Excessively – overly/ extra
 104. Considerate – thoughtful/ concerned
 105. Sparing – leaving out
 106. Apparatus – equipment/ tool
 107. Irritably – in an annoyed way
 108. Malignant – deadly/ harmful
 109. Gesture – signal
 110. Harrowing – upsetting
 111. Scraggy – skinny/ thin
 112. Lucidity – clarity/ awareness
 113. Wail – cry
 114. Dismay – shock/ surprise
 115. Coarse – sharp/ strong
 116. Petrified – stuck
 117. Vital – important
 118. Divert – redirect/ distract
 119. Hollow – empty
 120. Humiliation – embarrassment
 121. Derived – took
 122. Peculiar – stranger
 123. Thrill – excitement
 124. Acquaintance – someone known
 125. Evince – show
 126. Emulate – copy/ imitate
 127. Accumulate – collect/ gather
 128. Unadulterated – pure
 129. Soothe – calm/ relax
 130. Flattery – compliment
 131. Vestige – memory
 132. Emanate – flow/ spread/ come out
 133. Provocation – encouragement/ cause
 134. Fastidious – careful
 135. Illusory – fake
 136. Strain – influence

CHAPTER 4

Useful Quotations

- "He is doing a service in his own way." → Jagan's character/ proud of Mali
- "Everyone should be free to serve humanity in his own way," → Jagan's character
- The only link between them was the five-rupee currency note that he left on the hall table every morning. → collapse of the relationship between Jagan and Mali.
- Jagan knew that they did not use pure ghee but only hydrogenated vegetable oil in unlabeled tins. → Jagan's principles
- "Yet you have not mastered one thing, that's the art of looking happy. You are always looking careworn." → cousin to Jagan (cousin's character) "I generally go even farther than that when I have some work-always in the service of someone else, you may be sure. I do nothing for myself." → cousin's character
- "He may resent the question and think I'm interfering." → Jagan's character (communicational issues)
- "That means you have carried things to a point where you cannot speak to him at all" → cousin's realization of Jagan's issues.
- Jagan remembered that their last speech had been three and a half months ago. → communicational issues between Jagan and Mali.
- "God be thanked that there is no direct exit from his room to the street as my father once foolishly planned; otherwise I'd have lost the memory of my son's identity long ago." → communicational/ relational issues between Jagan and Mali
- He had a momentary panic at the thought of his son's removing himself geographically so far. → Jagan's love for Mali
- "Did Valmiki go to America or Germany in order to learn to write his Ramayana?" → Jagan's character (patriotism)
- "They eat only beef and park in that country. I used to know a man from America." → Jagan's character
- "They also take a lot of intoxicating drinks, never water or milk," → cousin's character (cultural influence)
- "Their women mix freely with men and snap off marriages without ado, and bask in the sun without clothes." → cousin's character (cultural influence).
- "Without my permission or help, without telling me anything?" → Jagan's character as a father
- "He said he always knew where to find the money in the house." → Mali's character (spoken by cousin)
- "I don't know how I can live in that house without him. The very thought depresses me." → Jagan's love for Mali
- "Please tell him to go by steamer. It's safer. Let him be safe." → Jagan's love for Mali
- "What is the cash worth to me? It's all for him. He can have everything he wants," said Jagan, making a note mentally to count at the earliest moment his cash hoarded in the loft. He also considered transferring it all, in due course, to a casket. → Jagan's character (hypocrisy).

Glossary

1. Reign - be in power/ exist
2. Intoxicated - excited
3. Pursue - follow
4. Acquired - got
5. Successive - following
6. Profound - deep
7. Muses - motivation/ creativity
8. Racked – filled
9. Impracticable - impossible
10. Galling - annoying
11. Naïve - not smart
12. Chink - hole/ opening
13. Constrained - forced to do something
14. Remark - comment/ say
15. Emerged – came
16. Contentment - satisfaction
17. Careworn - worried
18. Resent - dislike
19. Ruthlessly - cruelly/ rudely
20. Inquisitiveness - curiosity to ask questions
21. Slam - shut/ close
22. Swelled - be filled
23. Undertaking - promise/ duty
24. Blank out - to completely forget
25. Panic - be scared/ overreact
26. Inanely - extremely silly
27. Notion - idea
28. Outrageous - horrible
29. Patriotic - loyalty to one's nation
30. Sentiments - thoughts
31. Surging - flowing/ rising
32. Pugnacity - forcefully expressing an opinion
33. Bemusedly - in a confused way
34. Possessed - had
35. Flourished - waved/ raised
36. Vaguely - roughly/ uncertainly
37. Appalled - shocked/ alarmed
38. Desperately - out of hopelessness
39. Adverse - opposing
40. Hem - edge
41. Restrained - stopped
42. Rushed - hurried
43. Brooding - thinking deeply
44. Installment - a part of a payment
45. Contributing - providing
46. Snap off - break off
47. Ado - upset/ trouble
48. Bask - warm oneself in the sun
49. Cynically - full of doubt/ without trust
50. Stab - small amount
51. Suspicion - doubt/ distrust
52. Enraged - very angry
53. Nefarious - evil/ wicked
54. Withheld - keep back/ stopped giving
55. Allowance - sum of money given freely
56. Sneaking - secret/ hidden
57. Self reliant - independent
58. Entity - business/ organization
59. Relying - depending
60. Extraneous - outside
61. Titbits - gossip
62. Haphazard - random/ unplanned
63. Sniggered - laugh to make fun of something/ someone
64. Mechanically - without thought
65. Conviction – belief
66. Minutely - accurately
67. Appealing - attractive
68. Intercede - take action/ get involved
69. Brutally - violently/ rudely
70. Panic stricken - troubled
71. Steamer - ship/ boat
72. Predicament - difficulty/ mess
73. Prattling - talking too much
74. Hoarded - gathered/ saved up
75. Loft - storage space just below the roof
76. Due course - in correct time
77. Casket - box/ container
78. Extracted - taken
79. Passage - transport/ journey
80. Remittance - money/ allowance
81. Burglar - thief



CHAPTER 5

Useful Quotations

- **Now it seemed to him worth all the money and the pangs of separation. "My son is in America,"** → Jagan's character (his love for Mali)
- **Other boys would have wasted money on a telegram, but a letter at a tenth of the cost takes only a couple of days more. He's prudent, you know.** → Jagan's character (love for Mali)
- **"You must offer a couple of coconuts to Ganesha at the corner temple."** → cousin's character (Indian culture/ religion)
- **Mali proved unusually communicative from across the seas, and although at times he sounded brusque.** → Mali's character
- **If only Mali had taken the precaution of leaving a proper margin to his epistles, Jagan would have bound them into a neat little volume.** → Jagan's character (love for Mali)
- **Gradually his reading of the Bhagavad Gita was replaced by the blue airmail letters.** → Jagan's character (love for Mali)
- **He held them in sacred trust and could not allow a third person to touch them.** → Jagan's character (love for Mali)
- **"I've taken to eating beef; and I don't think I'm any the worse for it. Steak is something quite tasty and juicy. Now I want to suggest why not you people start eating beef? It'll solve the problem of useless cattle in our country and we won't have to beg food from America, I sometimes feel ashamed when India asks for American aid."** → Mali's character (modernism)
- **Matters became worse when Mali indicated the girl at his side and said, "This is Grace. We are married. Grace, my dad." Complete confusion, Married? When were you married? You didn't tell me. Don't you have to tell your father? Who is she? Anyway she looks like a Chinese. Don't you know that one can't marry a Chinese nowadays?** → conflict between Jagan and Mali
- **"Wish you had told me; oh, I sold my Pontiac before leaving."** → Mali's character
- **Grace gazed with fascination at the streets and bazaars.** → Grace's character
- **"Tell me what you want; I'll get it. I don't know what exactly you will like to have."** → Jagan's character (being nice to Grace)
- **"Please be seated yourself; you must be tired."** → Grace's character
- **"Does Mali still like our coffee or does he ask for tea as some of these foreign-returned people do?"** → cousin's character
- **"I can only provide what I'm used to. If they don't like it, they can go and eat where they please."** → Jagan's character
- **"Whatever it is, one can only do one's duty up to a point. Even in the Gita, you find it mentioned. The limit of one's duty is well defined."** → Jagan's character
- **Grace replied, "It's a picnic hamper. Mali thought you would appreciate it."** → Grace's character
- **"Of course, it's welcome," Jagan had said, wondering how one ever used it, and locked it up in his almirah."** → Jagan's character
- **Mali never wore a dhoti at home but a pair of dark trousers over a white shirt, and always had his feet in slippers.** → Mali's character
- **"Father, you think I mind it? I don't. I must not forget that I'm an Indian daughter-in-law."** → Grace's character
- **"Oh, Grace, Grace, you must not I'm not used to it. Don't you bother yourself. I believe in doing all my work myself."** → Jagan's character

- "And I believe in not letting you do it, that's all," she said. "I like to work, What else should I be doing all day?" → Grace's character
- "What will people think if they see a modern girl, brought up in New York, doing all this drudgery? Mali may not like it." → Jagan's character
- "It's not his business anyway," she said. "He is writing letters, and I'm doing the house, that's all. This is the loveliest house I have ever seen in my life." → Grace's character
- "I wish you would let me cook for you." → Grace's character
- "Oh, that is impossible. I'm under a vow about that." He explained how he ate to live only on what he could cook with his own hands. → Jagan's character
- "Yes, yes, I understand," Grace said. "Still he ought to have told you." → Grace's character (being a mediator for Jagan and Mali)
- "Suppose I ask him to speak to you about it; it is pretty important, you know. Unless he talks to you, what can he plan, really?" → Grace's character (being a mediator for Jagan and Mali)
- He was still hesitant, being averse to letting anyone touch these valuable documents. → Jagan's character (love for Mali)
- He silently prayed to Gandhi's spirit to forgive the lie he was about to utter. "Yes, yes; but I did not know these letters were yours." → Jagan's character
- "It is a custom in this country to inquire where one was born and bred and who is who generally." → Indian culture
- "Only the passport and income-tax people ask for such details in other countries." → Grace's character (modernism)
- "My mother was a Korean and my father was an American soldier." → Grace's character
- "I had heard so much about the caste system in this country. I was afraid to come here." → Grace's character
- "Mo has really been wonderful, you know. It was very courageous of him to bring me here." → Grace's character
- "Well, we don't believe in caste nowadays, you know," → Jagan's character changing for Mali and Grace
- "Even in your business," Mali went on, "if you had a telephone, more business would flow in. People might order by telephone." → Mali's character (modernism)
- "Ah! What an idea!" Grace cried. She found everything thrilling. Everything stirred some poetic feeling deep within her. → Grace's character
- His eyes lit up when he spoke of Margosa leaves. → Jagan's character (inherited beliefs)
- He sadly noted the fact that Mali's eyes were dark-ringed. What was he worrying about? → Jagan's character (love for Mali)
- "Socks should never be worn because they are certain to heat the blood through interference with the natural radiation." → Jagan's beliefs



Glossary

1. Pangs – pain
2. Puffing – filling up
3. Detect – notice
4. Custom – usual practice
5. Thrust – push
6. Gashed – cut/ break open
7. Split – cut/ divided into pieces
8. Longitudinally – from top to bottom
9. Deciphering – understanding
10. Pore over – to study/ read carefully
11. Prudent – wise/ smart
12. Equivalent – equal/ similar
13. Withdrew – left
14. Proceeded – went
15. Glimpse – short look
16. Adjournment lawyer – a lawyer to request delay
17. Liberty – freedom
18. Tendency – readiness
19. Obsessed – mind is completely filled with/ controlled by something
20. Presumptuous – overconfident
21. First hand – direct/ personal
22. Eagerly – showing much interest
23. Groan – sigh/ sound to show annoyance
24. Postage – the money required to send something by post
25. Catalogue – list of items
26. Ignorant – not smart
27. Resisted – avoided/ blocked
28. Enlightenment – knowledge
29. Postscript – additional information
30. Savor – taste
31. Fragment – a piece
32. Affording – allowing
33. Snatch up – to take something quickly
34. Burden – worry/ stress
35. Pilgrimage – religious journey
36. Brusque – sharp/ rude
37. Impersonal – detached
38. Generalized – not specific/ broader statement
39. A good deal – a lot
40. Precaution – action taken to prevent danger or a mistake
41. Epistles – letter
42. Obligated – forced/ required
43. Execution – carrying out/ completion
44. Sundry – various
45. Afflicted – suffering from/ affected
46. Afflicted – suffering from/ affected
47. Pounced – jumped
48. Hawk like – like a hawk/ sharp and fast
49. Unwary – careless
50. Victim – a person who is treated unfairly
51. Thrall – control
52. Entangled – caught in/ involved
53. Lore – stories
54. Bottle up – hide
55. Motorcade – a parade/ set of vehicles
56. Recount – tell
57. Mingled – socialized
58. Tore – pulled apart to pieces
59. Sheer affection – strong love
60. Suppressed – hid/ controlled
61. Aid – help
62. Headed the list – was at top of the list
63. Cogitating – thinking/ considering
64. Dumped – sent out
65. Puff away – move away (producing smoke)
66. Streamlined – modernized
67. Corded cartons – boxes tightened with cords
68. Inferiority – in a lower position
69. Porter – a person who carries luggage
70. Scores – a lot (about 20)
71. Air freight – carriage of items by aero plane
72. Fore – in the front
73. Spectacle – appearance
74. Strides – steps
75. Shield – protection
76. Indiscreet – careless/ not smart
77. Pretext – excuse
78. Gaping – watching
79. Democratic – the rule of majority/ people's power
80. Importation – bringing items from another country
81. Occasionally – sometimes
82. Peep out – look out
83. Fascination – interest
84. Cooed – speak with a soft voice
85. Pant up – run quickly
86. Fortnight – 14 days
87. Rig up – fix something temporarily
88. Piling – putting together
89. Cut short – to end half way

90. Downcast – sad
91. Inconvenient – uncomfortable
92. Proposed – suggested
93. Casteless – not belonging to the caste (levels in society) system in India.
94. Pry – spy/ examine
95. Weary – tired
96. Receded – move back
97. Lag – move slowly
98. Compartments – sections/ parts
99. Almirah – wardrobe
100. Seldom – rarely
101. Descend – come/ move down
102. Elaborately – with extra care
103. Deserted – empty
104. Rabble – a disorderly crowd
105. Quarters – living space
106. Tidied – cleaned
107. Protests – opposition
108. Unheeded – ignored
109. Clutched – held/ gripped
110. Raked – collected
111. Stooping – bending down
112. Scrubbing – brushing/ cleaning
113. Tucking up – to push a cloth in place as to tie and secure it
114. Drudgery – hard work
115. Musty – smelly/ old fashioned
116. Imparted – provided
117. Peal of laughter – loud series of laughs
118. Riffled through – look quickly through some items
119. Hesitant – unsure/ unwilling
120. Averse – opposed to/ against
121. Fumbled – struggle/ look for blindly
122. Trail off – to gradually become quieter and stop
123. Gulping down – swallowing
124. Rambling – lengthy talk
125. Dangling – hanging
126. Clumsy – careless
127. Soar – go high
128. Abolition – stopping/ ending
129. Associate – partner/ co-worker
130. Dread – fear
131. Prospect – possibility
132. Routine – daily habits
133. Obediently – doing as told
134. Trooped – walked
135. Sprig – twig/ stick
136. Tender – soft/not grown
137. Throbbled – shook/ heart beating fast
138. Antiseptic – killing germs
139. Below par – worse than usual
140. Hermetically – completely sealed
141. Insulate – cover
142. Dimly – lightly/ not clearly
143. Shudder – shake/ shiver
144. Noncommittal – careful
145. Unaccompanied – not with anyone
146. Palpitating – beating/ pounding strongly (with strong sound)



CHAPTER 6

Useful Quotations

- "Even when one wants to make profits, one should retain some sense of service. I have not raised the price here, in spite of the sugar crisis." → Jagan's character
- Flattery was his accredited business in life; even when he joked and disparaged it was all a part of his flattery. → cousin's character
- "Boys must have their own vehicles nowadays; they don't like to walk," generalized Jagan. → Jagan's character
- "I always like to move on my feet, but these are days of speed; people must go from place to place quickly." → Jagan's character
- "But that boy grew up fearlessly, full of self-reliance at an age when other boys of his age were being mollicoddled." → Jagan's character (love for Mali)
- The sight of the children at the counter made him uneasy, or even guilty at times. → Jagan's character
- Jagan's studied avoidance of the subject of his son had not been to the cousin's liking. It made him feel that he had been suddenly converted into an outsider; he didn't like the status, and so here he found an opportunity to bring himself back into the fold. → cousin's character
- "I'm so happy that the boy still calls me 'Uncle' whenever he meets me;" → cousin's character
- I'd promised to find a suitable cook for them; the lady is not in good health. I have to do various things for various persons. → cousin's character
- The cousin watched his face, relishing the bewilderment he saw in it, and said with an innocent look, "Haven't you heard of story-writing machines?" → cousin's character
- The cousin rubbed it in by saying, "I thought he would have told you everything. What else was he telling you this morning?" → cousin's character
- "Of course," she said, "if he isn't, he will free himself for your sake." → Grace's character
- She seemed to have built up Mali into a celebrity. She led him forward. "He is very methodical, you know." → Grace's character
- "I had to clear it from the railway office. What a lot of time is wasted here! I have never seen a more wasteful country than ours." → Mali's character (modernism)
- "In course of time, every home in the country will possess one and we will produce more stories than any other nation in the world." → Mali's character (ambitious)
- Grace came in, stood beside them, and said, "Isn't he clever?" → Grace's character (admiration for Mali)
- "Grace, do you know that our ancestors never even wrote the epics? They composed the epics and recited them, and the great books lived thus from generation to generation in the breath of the people." → Jagan's admiration for ancestors
- "Oh, these are not the days of your ancestors. Today we have to compete with advanced countries." → Mali's character (modernism)
- "Ultimately, you may have to give up your sweet-making and work in our business. I'll give you a nice air-conditioned room with a couple of secretaries." → Mali's character (modernism)
- "The proposition is that we get American collaboration worth two hundred thousand dollars, provided we find fifty one thousand to start the business." → Mali's business
- "Of course, and he also says he knows where you keep cash not sent to the bank." → cousin showing Mali's character

- **"I hope you will find an occasion to tell my son that I have not got all that money."** → Jagan's character (cannot communicate directly to Mali)
- **"Here is a scheme to make me a bankrupt,"** → Jagan's character
- **"I am not growing over fond of money; but I'm not prepared to squander it. Why should we want stories or machines for writing them?"** → Jagan's character
- **As ever, he had to opposite feelings: appreciation of her interest in Mali and resentment at her effort to involve him in their business.** → Jagan's attitude towards Grace
- **An occasional misgiving tainted Jagan's thoughts might not Grace's interest, friendliness, and attentiveness be a calculated effort to win his dollars?** → Jagan's attitude towards Grace
- **Jagan saw his name in print as one of the principal promoters of Mali Enterprises.** → Mali's business
- **"The company have now made a start With an automobile. Although it's an old one, it is useful. One has to move about so much on business, nowadays."** → Grace speaking of Mali's business
- **"Gandhi has taught me peaceful methods, and that's how I'm going to meet their demand. These two are bent upon involving me in all sorts of things,"** → Jagan's character
- **He felt nervous as he approached the ancient house. The expectant stare of Grace when she opened the door, and the significant side-glances of Mali, got on his nerves.** → Jagan being pressurized by Mali and Grace
- **Grace had studied his movements and timed her interception perfectly.** → Grace's character
- **I have remembered my duties as a Hindu wife. I have also washed the doorsteps and decorated the threshold with white flour.** → Grace's character
- **"I really do not know what you mean. You expect everything to be said ten times; no wonder nothing gets done in this country."** → Mali's character
- **Grace interposed to say, "Father, if you have any questions, I am sure Mali will be glad to answer them."** → Grace's character
- **"I am a poor man," Jagan wailed, and immediately noticed the shock on Mali's face and the embarrassment he had created before Grace. It was as if he had uttered a bad word.** → conflict between Jagan and Mali
- **"You expect me to do that? I have better plans than to be a vendor of sweetmeats."** → Mali's character (modernism)
- **At least this fellow spoke better than Mali, in similar circumstances, who didn't want him if he did not claim to be a wealthy father.** → conflict between Jagan and Mali
- **He might break down and it would be silly to be seen in tears while he was occupying the throne.** → Jagan's character
- **I can afford to give away, boy," he shouted from his throne. "Treat those children."** → turning point of Jagan's character
- **"By all means, speak to him on any matter you like," Jagan said, and added with firmness, "But not on my behalf."** → turning point of Jagan's character



Glossary

1. Retain – keep
2. In spite of – even though
3. Accredited – known for
4. Disparaged – made fun of/ depreciate
5. Unscrupulous – dishonest
6. Cubits – length of the forearm
7. Jeered – mocked/ made fun of
8. Genially – friendly
9. Conveyance – transportation
10. Fancied – liked
11. Mollycoddled – pampered/ over cared
12. Utmost – maximum
13. Betray – cheat
14. Ignorance – stupidity/ unawareness
15. Enliven – brighten up
16. Obstruct – block
17. Amorously – lovingly
18. Scattering – separating
19. Clogged – blocked
20. Threaded – passed
21. Back into the fold – back into the group/ position
22. Disowned – rejected
23. Baffled – confused
24. Blurting out – speaking without thought
25. Incoherently – unclearly/ disorderly
26. Lapsed – shifted/ moved
27. Relishing – enjoying
28. Loftily – arrogantly/ with high spirit
29. Bided – stayed
30. Air of importance – acting as if they're important than others
31. Petitioner – a person making a complaint
32. Cringing – shaking/ shivering
33. Concession – allowance
34. Redress – correct
35. Spring cleaning – thorough/ extreme cleaning
36. Implications – hints
37. Methodical – organized
38. Girt – prepared
39. Plunged – jumped
40. Grasp – understand
41. Retorting – replying
42. Oration – speech
43. Cyclostyled – duplicating/ copying paper
44. Fixture – attachment
45. Ejected – thrown out
46. Veneer – surface
47. Fund – collection
48. Jocular – funny
49. Trepidation – fear
50. Epics – long poem/ story
51. Lacuna. – gap
52. Verified – confirmed
53. Amassed – gathered
54. Compatriots – fellow countrymen
55. Mollified – calmed
56. Immaculate – flawless
57. Tempo – rhythm
58. Thaw – increased friendliness
59. Studiously – actively
60. Footfalls – footsteps
61. Squander – waste
62. Threshold – entrance
63. Incantations – religious recital/ singing
64. Bolt down – eat quickly
65. Tainted – damaged
66. Sturdy – strong
67. Injunction – order
68. Pester – trouble
69. Lessens – reduces
70. Prospectus – brochure/ informational material
71. Insularity – isolation
72. Perpetrate – perform
73. Heinous – wicked/ bad
74. Courtesy – politeness
75. Comity – association/ society
76. Rut – boring routine
77. Pillion – passenger
78. Subtly – lightly
79. Irksome – awkward/ uneasy
80. Got on his nerves – annoyed/ angered
81. Retreated – left/ went back
82. Shack – hut
83. Point blank – directly
84. Maneuvering – moving/ planning
85. Charmer – a person with magical powers
86. Importunate – persistent/ pressing
87. Orthodox – traditional
88. Auspicious – good/ fortunate time
89. Scowled – looked angrily
90. Usherette – a woman who shows people to their seats
91. Gingerly – carefully
92. Plea – request
93. Pincer movement – encircled/ surrounded
94. Mildly – gently
95. Trials – tests
96. Interposed – interrupted
97. Staggering – shocking
98. Advocated – supported
99. Vicious – cruel
100. Impassive – no emotions

- 101. Confluence – junction
- 102. Inexhaustible – unlimited
- 103. Reminiscent – reflecting/ remembering
- 104. Consternation – shock
- 105. Spurned – rejected
- 106. Sought – looked for
- 107. Assaying – testing
- 108. Ragged – torn/ damaged
- 109. Sneered – smile cruelly
- 110. Reckoning – judgement

CHAPTER 7

Useful Quotations

- **He knew that his staff viewed him as an astute businessman; although his decision was baffling, doubtless they thought he must have some sound reason for raking this step; → Jagan's wisdom in business**
- **"I will ask the customers who clamor here to go to your shop, provided you promise them pure quality." → Jagan's character**
- **"As Lord Krishna says in the Gita, it is all in one's hand. You make up your mind and you will find the object of your search." → Jagan's character**
- **"But why should you upset all our business?" → The Sait from Ananda Bhavan**
- **"It would be actually more economical to close down our business, but we cannot do it; people will suffer; innocent office workers, laborers, and students who depend upon us for their nourishment would be the real ones to suffer," → The Sait from Ananda Bhavan**
- **"I don't drink more than four ounces of water a day," said Jagan, "and that must be boiled at night and cooled in a mud jug open to the sky. I drink no other water; even when I was in prison in those days." → Jagan's character**
- **"We must all strive to maintain the tone of business; that is our common aim." → The Sait from Ananda Bhavan**
- **"People who knew me used to call me Chinna Dorai as distinct from my master, who was known as Peria Dorai-the small master and the big master-ah, in no way to be compared." → The bearded man**
- **Jagan sighed at this reminder. For years his fixed orbit had been between the statue and the shop, his mental operations being confined to Mali, the cousin, and frying. → Jagan's character**
- **"Gandhi was my master," → Jagan's character**



Glossary

1. Placard – sign
2. Clamor – noise
3. Harried –stressed
4. Stagnant – inactive
5. Brushed off – removed/ rejected
6. Vainly – uselessly
7. Unruly – disorderly/ uncontrollably
8. Astute – clever
9. Canny – clever
10. Disillusion – remove wrong beliefs
11. Tact – wisdom
12. Vanity – pride
13. Benign – kind
14. Arrayed – arranged
15. Bolt – stay settled
16. Assent – agreement
17. Charioteer – driver
18. Chorused – said together
19. Snuff – to breathe fresh air
20. Strutted up – walk proudly
21. Belching fire – large amounts of fire
22. Effusive – showing pleasure
23. Sait – expert/ much knowledgeable
24. Hailed – came from
25. Unobtrusively – gently
26. Fussily – in an unnecessarily worried way
27. Fend – take care of oneself
28. Drastic – extreme
29. Beatific – blessed
30. Heresy – unbelief
31. Acuteness – sharpness
32. Assailed – attacked
33. Simper – smirk
34. Grimness – seriousness
35. Muster – gather
36. Sinister – evil/ ominous
37. Refusal – rejection
38. Beacon light of conduct – guiding principle
39. Delegation – team
40. Groove – track
41. Benevolent – kind
42. Confer – give
43. Boons – blessings/ benefits
44. Conceive – imagine
45. Indistinguishable – can't say the difference
46. Render – provide
47. Arbitrarily – without being biased
48. Antiquated – outdated
49. Substitutes – alternatives
50. Repartee – wisdom
51. Effervescence – bubbling
52. Ceremoniously – officially
53. Strive – put effort to
54. Indistinct – unclear
55. Vanquished – defeated
56. Shrine – sanctuary/ temple
57. Friezes – decorations along a wall
58. Blazed – was bright
59. Elocution – speech
60. Driving at – hinting/ suggesting
61. Monotonous – boring
62. Fervently – seriously/ passionately
63. Falsetto – high pitched voice
64. Ballast – encouragement
65. Esteem – respect
66. Inhibition – stopping
67. Confined – limited
68. A minute speck – small/ insignificant
69. Companions – partners
70. Contemplative – thinking
71. Claimant – applicant
72. Besieged – surrounded
73. Fetch – pick up
74. Allied – connected
75. Specification – requirement
76. Solemnly – seriously/ truly

CHAPTER 8

Useful Quotations

- "Where else could one live? We needed all those stones." → The bearded man
- "I came to him when I was five years old. I don't know who my parents were. People used to say I was picked up by my master on the river-step." → The bearded man
- "Nothing to worry about, and the sales-tax people have still not come my way yet." → The bearded man
- "If Gandhi had said somewhere, "Pay your sales tax uncomplainingly," he would have followed his advice, but Gandhi had made no reference to sales tax anywhere (to Jagan's knowledge). → Jagan's character
- "I like my white beard and keep it. There is no compulsion for anyone to blacken his hair." → The bearded man
- "He is preparing to hold my head down in the water. Should I turn back and rush away?" → Jagan's character
- "In my next life, I'd like to be born ..." His mind ran through various choices. Pet dog? Predatory cat? Street-corner donkey? Maharajah on an elephant? Anything but a money-making sweet-maker with a spoilt son." → Jagan's dissatisfaction of his life.
- "Can't you lift it? I am not surprised. If you ate normally like other human beings, or at least consumed some of the sweets that you sell, you would be in better shape." → The bearded man (bullying Jagan)
- Pausing for a moment to consider whether at his age he was well advised to carry a slab of stone up wet steps. → Jagan's character
- "Why don't you buy this garden and install the Goddess?" → The bearded man (hidden motive)

Glossary

1. Mantled - covered
2. Crumbling - decaying/ getting destroyed
3. Wayfarers - travelers
4. Loomed - came out/ emerged
5. Puncture - piercing/ending
6. Oppressive - severe/ extreme
7. Foothills - a small hill at the base of a mountain
8. Thickets - bushes
9. Sanctum - Sanctuary
10. Hew - carve
11. Ward off - avoid
12. Concubine - a woman kept without marriage
13. Rummaging - searching
14. Instinctive - natural
15. Inexplicable - can't explain
16. Exception - misfit/ exclusion
17. Pillared - having pillars/ columns
18. Monopolize - dominate/ control
19. Vigil - watch
20. Cremated - burned a dead body
21. Alcove - a hole
22. Deity - godly
23. Dents - pits/ craters
24. Remote - distant
25. Frenzy - madness
26. Startling - scaring
27. Discomfiture - embarrassment
28. Defect - fault/ problem
29. Pedestal - a stand
30. Cosmic - universal
31. Chip off - break into parts
32. Flaw - mistake/ problem
33. Agape - amazed
34. Antics - tricks
35. Naught - nothing
36. Janma - birth (in Hindi)
37. Jargon - specialized language
38. Inscription - writing/ engraving
39. Enticed - attracted
40. Dietetics - nutrition
41. Sane - practical
42. Clung - held on to



43. Colic - stomach ache
44. Briskly - energetically
45. Peremptory - with authority
46. Perennial - everlasting
47. Precariously - unsteadily/ likely to fall
48. Poising - balancing
49. Imperiously - in an overpowering way
50. Implicit - indirect
51. Clamped - fixed
52. Propelled - pushed
53. Notches - marks/ carvings
54. Cajoling - persuading/ tempting
55. Exert - apply
56. Consult - look for advice
57. Inclinations - wishes/ desires
58. Revived - refreshed
59. Divine articles - godly items
60. Outbreak - sudden start
61. Delicate - easily breakable
62. Coursing - flowing
63. Devote - dedicate/ commit Drawn - pulled
64. Quarrying - extracting building materials from ground
65. Inauspicious - unlucky
66. Countenance - face
67. Illumines. - lights up
68. Conch - shell
69. Symmetry - balance
70. Reverence - respect
71. Gave a start -shake with fear
72. Retreat - an isolated place
73. Uproot - remove
74. Resemble - look like

CHAPTER 9

Useful Quotations

- **Jagan now had a separate key with which he let himself into his house softly. He crossed the passage, and shut the door between his part of the house and his son's.** → conflict between Jagan and Mali
- **Committed to various things until yesterday, to the shop and the family, he was a different man at this moment.** → clash of traditionalism and modernism
- **He was no longer the father of Mali, the maker of sweets and gatherer of money each day; he was gradually, unnoticed, becoming something else, perhaps a supporter of the bearded sculptor.** → Jagan's transformation
- **He remembered that one ought not to resist when circumstances pushed one across the threshold of a new personality.** → Jagan's character
- **He felt unhappy at having to speak in a new tone of voice to Mali, from whom he used to pine for a word:** → Jagan's character (love for Mali)
- **"I do not understand what you are talking about. I have never been able to understand you at all. Call her, let me talk to her."** → conflict between Mali and Jagan
- **He had got used to the presence of Grace in the house, and he felt desolate at the thought of losing her.** → Jagan's concern for Grace
- **Some invisible force twisted their tongues when they wanted to speak and made them say the wrong things.** → conflict between Jagan and Mali
- **"Who are you to stop her from going where she pleases? She is a free person, not like the daughters-in-law in our miserable country."** → Mali's character (modernism)
- **"This is a miserable place with no life in it. She was used to a good life."** → Mali's character (modernism)

- **"But she is sweeping and cleaning the house. This is a big house and she has enough work to keep her engaged for the whole day. What more does she want?"** → Jagan's character
 - **"If she has nothing to do here, she goes back, that's all. Her air ticket must be bought immediately."** → Mali's character
 - **"But a wife must be with her husband, whatever happens."**
- "That was in your day,"** said Mali, and left the room. → conflict between Jagan and Mali

Glossary

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Stripped off - removed | 16. Wispy - delicate/ soft |
| 2. Charka - spinning wheel | 17. Ward - guard/ protector |
| 3. Bureau - office | 18. Stiffened - hardened |
| 4. Hank - a coil/ a roll | 19. Pine for - long for/ desire for |
| 5. Sensuous - relaxing/ pleasing | 20. Enveloped - surrounded |
| 6. Whirring - spinning sound | 21. Petulantly - in an annoyed way |
| 7. Prescribed - recommended | 22. Officious - bossy |
| 8. Turmoil - chaos/ trouble | 23. Forlorn - unhappy |
| 9. Reposeful - calm | 24. Wry - annoyed |
| 10. Suspended - stopped | 25. Repugnance - disgust |
| 11. Gruel - more liquid like | 26. Desolate - abandoned/ left out |
| 12. Indifferent - unconcerned | 27. Fate - destiny |
| 13. Alacrity - readiness | 28. Decree - to make an order |
| 14. Vermicelli - long thin pasta/ noodles | |
| 15. Crescent - half moon | |

CHAPTER 10

Useful Quotations

- **It was over ten days since she had come near him. She seemed to be avoiding him. He felt depressed at the thought.** → Jagan's attitude towards Grace
- **"Why does he not talk to me properly? He can't speak two sentences without upsetting me."** → the conflict between Jagan and Mali
- **The cousin, pleased at the superior position he was enjoying, said rather patronizingly, "Don't let it upset you. You are a wise man and you must not think of these things too much."** → cousin's character
- **"The Ananda Bhavan said and a few others have promised to buy shares in his company."** → Mali's business
- **"What rubbish! He is talking like a big financier! If he has the money for it, why does he ask me?"** → Jagan's character (conflict with Mali)
- **"Please help me, enlighten me. I don't know what to do and how to do it."** → Jagan's character (praying)
- **They had to beat him and crack open his skull in order to make him let go his hold. He opened his eyes fifteen days later in the hospital, and lay forgotten in a prison afterwards.** → Jagan's character in the protests against British rule
- **She was wearing a yellow kimono and looked very much like a Japanese. "She looks different each day!"** → Grace's character (transforming to original character)
- **"You have beaten about the bush and practically lost contact with your son; don't lose your daughter too."** → Jagan's character (love for both Grace and Mali)



- "He wants me to go back. He says he can't afford to keep me here any more." → Grace's character (conflict with Mali)
- "I used to work. I had two thousand dollars when I came here. All that's gone." → Grace's character
- "But we are not married," Grace said simply. "He promised he'd marry me in the Indian way, because I liked it, and brought me here." → Grace's and Mali's relationship
- She looked so good and virtuous; he had relied on her so much, and yet here she was living in sin and talking casually about it all. → Jagan's character (judging Grace and Mali)
- What breed of creatures were these? he wondered. They had tainted his ancient home. → Jagan's character
- The cousin suppressed many questions that arose in his mind, wondered if he was expected to attempt some new matchmaking for Mali → cousin's character
- "Send them away. If you show some consideration once, they expect it forever and ever; our people have no self-respect." → Jagan's character (inner conflict)
- "No sense in upsetting the social balance. I don't wish to make enemies of that Ananda Bhavan said or the others. There are all sorts of persons at their back." → Jagan's character (society)
- "Our young men live in a different world from ours and we must not let ourselves be upset too much by certain things they do." → cousin's character (practical)
- "This sort of thing is unheard of in our family. Even my grandfather's brother, who was known to be immoral, never did this sort of thing." → Jagan's traditionalism
- "I can't understand how two young persons can live together like this without being married," → Jagan's traditionalism
- The cousin now brought the matter down to a practical level, as he always did, "Why do you let this affect you so much? It is after all their business." → cousin's character
- His role was to help Jagan crystallize his attitudes in a crisis. → cousin's character
- "We are blinded by our attachments. Every attachment creates a delusion and we are carried away by it." → Jagan's thoughts
- The cousin threw up his arms in horror. "Unthinkable. What you say to me is a sacred trust, believe me." → cousin's character

Glossary

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Considerateness - thoughtfulness | 18. Clamber - climb |
| 2. Impregnable - unbeatable | 19. Venture - travel |
| 3. Errands - tasks | 20. Twirling - spinning |
| 4. Dispersed - spread | 21. Beat about the bush - avoid the direct point |
| 5. Entitled - qualified | 22. Twitched - shivered/ shook |
| 6. Cottage - a small house | 23. Composure - calmness |
| 7. Influential - powerful | 24. Raucous - harsh/ loud |
| 8. Abducted - kidnapped/ carried away | 25. Bustled - hurried |
| 9. Resume - restarted | 26. Satyagrahi - someone holding to the truth |
| 10. Occurred - came to mind | 27. Deep seated - persistent/ can't be removed |
| 11. Patronizingly - in a superior way | 28. Halting - hesitant |
| 12. Plucky - courageous | 29. Facets - qualities |
| 13. Decoying - tempting/ trapping | 30. Tongue tied - speechless |
| 14. Financier - investor | 31. Digest at one sitting - understand at once |
| 15. Resentfully - angrily | |
| 16. Worn out - tired | |
| 17. Compound - an open area encircled by a fence | |

32. Tainted - dirtied/ polluted

33. Borne - carried

34. Coldly - unemotionally

35. Ardour - impatience

36. Elevated - uplifted

37. Egged - encouraged

38. Smack of scandal - involve in gossip

39. Righteous indignation - moral anger/
angry at injustice

40. Sage like - wise

41. Vicarious - indirect

42. Lechery - lustfulness/ impurity

43. Revel - celebrate

44. Emphatically - strongly

45. Arrested - stopped

46. Glared - stare angrily

47. Awfully - extremely

48. Crystallize - solidify/ make clear

49. Equanimity - calmness

50. Attain - achieve/ get

51. Unsullied - pure/ untouched

52. Complexion - point of view

53. Assured - made sure

54. Protestation - statement

55. Clear headed - logical/ practical

CHAPTER 11

Useful Quotations

- **Since the advent of Grace, all his relations had ostracized him.** → Jagan's relations (traditionalism)
- **"We are ashamed to refer to you as a brother...**
... **But now is it a fact that you have a beef-eating Christian girl for a daughter in law?"**
→ Jagan's sister (traditionalism)
- **He had escaped the marriages of his nieces, the birthdays of his brother's successive children, and several funerals.** → Jagan's character (isolated)
- **"I wish I had bought it when it was offered. I could have given it to Mali. He'd have been near enough and far enough too."** → Jagan's character
- **The effort to suppress his natural tone to a whisper choked him and puffed up the veins on his neck. He was unused to secrecies.** → Jagan's character
- **"People must respect other people's privacy, that's all. We don't find it in this country. In America no one stares at others."** → Mali's character (modernism)
- **"Do you think my business is going to be dropped because you have shut the door?"** → Mali's character
- **"Grace has been getting funny notions, that's why I told you to pack her off, but you grudged the expenditure," said Mali. "She is not in her right mind; she must go to a psychiatrist."** → Mali's character (relationship with Grace)



Glossary

1. Barricaded - blocked
2. Dwelling - house
3. Ventilator - airflow system
4. Trodden - walked
5. Hither and thither - here and there
6. Spade - shovel
7. Elapsed - passed
8. Traversed - crossed
9. Scorched - burned
10. Paltry - small
11. Befitting - appropriate
12. On no account - never
13. Doggedly - stubbornly
14. Sinister - threatening
15. Blackmailer - someone who threatens and takes advantage
16. Plead - request
17. Wring - twist
18. Rear up - get up
19. Menacingly - threateningly
20. Rustic - rural
21. Intrigued - amazed
22. Advent - arrival
23. Ostracized - excluded
24. Indignity - embarrassment
25. Unsavory - unpleasant/ disagreeable
26. Outcast - outsider
27. Absolved - released/ freed
28. Obligations - duties
29. Compelling - forcing
30. Conclaves - meetings
31. Kinsmen - relatives
32. Careworn - tired
33. Tug at heart - cause to feel strong emotions
34. Recklessly - carelessly
35. Nestling - cuddling/ hugging
36. Confided - revealed/ show
37. Accost - approach
38. Retrace - revisit
39. Prowl - roam/ go around
40. Gruffly - rudely
41. Cower back - shrink/ hide
42. Recoil - shy away
43. Fanfare - parade
44. Pageantry - ceremony
45. Hoarsely - in a rough voice
46. Secrecies - secrets
47. Sting - trickery/cheating
48. Controversial - problematic
49. Triumphant - victorious
50. Plausible - possible
51. Correspondence - communication
52. Precipice - steep rock/ cliff
53. Grudged - disliked
54. Backwoods - middle of nowhere
55. Transfixed - capture the full attention of someone

CHAPTER 12

Useful Quotations

- There was a time when it seethed with life, lamps burning in every room, and during the festivals hundreds of mud lamps would be lit and arrayed all along the parapet. Theirs had been the brightest home in those days. That was long before the birth of Mali, years even before his marriage. → Jagan's reflection
- That day when he had travelled to the village of Kuppam in order to take a look at the bride proposed for him by the elders of his family. → Jagan's character (traditionalism)
- The future bride's younger brother, who had come to meet him as a piece of courtesy, was also in the carriage. → traditionalism
- They all engaged him in conversation and tried to judge of his intelligence and outlook. → traditionalism
- Jagan had already been warned by his elder brother not to be too communicative, as a certain mysteriousness was invaluable in a son-in-law. → traditionalism
- It was a matter of propriety to say a good word about the journey when the railway ran over their territory. → culture
- Later, when they were alone, his brother nudged him and said, "You should have said 'mathematics,' because I know those people would prefer a mathematical son-in-law; → culture
- He was racked with a doubt whether the girl might not be squint-eyed, since it was well known that photographers tried to slur over such facts for purposes of marriage. → practices in society
- She had been decorated with so many ornaments that it was impossible to guess what she really looked like, and of course the photographer had imparted the appropriate complexion. → practices in society
- Even if one was maddeningly hungry one had to say, "Oh, why all this? I cannot eat. We have just had coffee and everything in the train..." → culture
- All the same, the code demanded that their hosts should press the delicacies upon them. Then one would have to break off the jilebi minutely with the tip of one's fingers and transfer it to one's mouth, and generally display reluctance or even aversion until pressed again, and then just to please others eat two or three bits in succession and then take an elegant sip of coffee. → culture
- "This son of ours must have been a rat in his last life, considering his nibbling capacity." → Jagan's father's remarks (Jagan's life before adopting simplicity)
- One had to view the main purpose casually, neither side displaying too much interest or anxiety. → culture
- Jagan had become an eligible bachelor three years before and had inspected four would-be brides so far. On two occasions he had kept staring at the girls in open-mouthed wonder because they happened to be stunningly ugly; → Jagan's character
- On the floor was spread an enormous striped carpet; incense sticks were lit so as to overwhelm the smell of the cowshed at the back yard. → practices of the society
- "With so many around my view is going to be obstructed and then no one should blame me if I demand a second appearance." There could be no such thing as a second appearance. → Jagan's character (culture)
- "I don't care what my brother is going to say later; for the present I am going to stare, gaze, and study. I don't care what anybody thinks." → Jagan's character



- Milkmen were out with their cows, a few cyclists were on the move to reach the single textile mill of the town by the time its doors should open. Except for these the city was still asleep. → Life in Malgudi/ society
- He had many relatives whom he highly respected, elders without whose sanction he never proceeded in any matter. → Jagan's father (traditionalism)
- "Father wants a dowry of five thousand rupees," which really worried Jagan. Suppose the other refused! Then what? → Jagan's character (culture)
- Jagan's father harpooned methodically onto a long iron spike with a circular wooden stop at one end, by which system they had preserved their family correspondence from time immemorial. → tradition
- The father of the bride handed this important document ceremoniously to Jagan's father, together with an envelope in which he had put currency notes, half the dowry in advance. → tradition
- He was able to corner her and snatch a little privacy in the house, which was crowded every inch with guests and visitors. → Jagan's wedding ceremony
- The noise, the music of drums and pipes, the jokes and feasting went on for three days and ended with a photographer organizing a huge group photo with the bride and the bridegroom seated in the center. → Jagan's wedding ceremony
- The women felt that this was downright cheating. "They are saving the gold!" they commented angrily. They would have even gone to the extent of stopping the marriage. → when Ambika's gold waist belt was found not made purely with gold.
- He had already become hen-pecked, and was already an unpaid advocate for his wife's family. → Jagan being criticized by his family for taking Ambika's side
- When they were alone, Jagan spent all his time in love-making. → Jagan's character
- He found his education a big nuisance, cut his classes, and came back home and sneaked into his room and failed in every examination. → Jagan's marriage interfering with his studies
- It would be unseemly for a daughter-in-law to seek her husband's company when the others were busy in the house in various ways. → traditionalism
- "A son is a son until the wife comes," feeling bitter that he could spare so little time for the others at home. → Jagan's marriage interfering with other familial relationships.
- "All one asks of a girl is that she at least bring some children into a house as a normal person should; → Jagan's family pressuring Ambika to have a child (traditionalism)
- In an orthodox household with all the pujas and the Gods, a menstruating woman had to isolate herself. → religious beliefs
- His father said, "The temple is known as Santana Krishna; a visit to it is the only known remedy for barrenness in women." → traditional beliefs
- "Your mother remarked that, being uneducated myself, I want to drag you down to my own level." → Ambika expressing frustration
- She was a model of goodness, courtesy, and cheerfulness generally, but she could lash with her tongue when her temper was roused. → Jagan's thoughts about Ambika
- "No one who prays at that temple is ever disappointed with a daughter." → social/ religious beliefs

Glossary

1. Resignation - surrender
2. Entries - writings
3. Encounter - meeting
4. In the guise - in the form/ looking like
5. Immensity - greatness
6. Irreverence - disrespect
7. Congregated - gathered
8. Suffocating - choking
9. Parapet - railing
10. Heave - lift
11. Oaths - promises
12. Grimmost - most serious
13. Ultimately - finally
14. Pyol - front porch of the house
15. Invaluable - priceless
16. Furtive - secretive
17. Propriety - good manner
18. Sanction - approval
19. Nudge - push
20. Mounted - positioned
21. Scrutinize - check
22. Squint eyed - narrow eyed
23. Complexion - skin color
24. Heaped - put on top and pile
25. Hued - colored
26. Tumblers - glasses
27. Gobble up - eat quickly
28. Inflexible - rigid
29. Verdict - judgement
30. Essence - core/ main part
31. Elicited - got
32. Repast - meal
33. Resolutely - firmly
34. Faux pas - mistake
35. Undisguisedly - openly
36. Lapses - errors
37. Reprimanded - scolded
38. Repertory - collection
39. Scapegoat - victim
40. Chaperone - guard
41. Stiffened - hardened
42. Accompaniment - addition
43. Discordant - opposed
44. Preamble - introduction
45. Swishing - swinging
46. Puny - weak
47. Overlapped - covered
48. Provoking - annoying
49. Flits - flies
50. Unwinkingly - without blinking
51. Wad - bundle
52. Dusky - dim
53. Haze - mist
54. Muddled - confused
55. Coincided - happened at the same time
56. Pensive - thoughtful
57. Tarried - walked slowly
58. Prejudiced - biased/ fixed thought
59. Urgency - quick need
60. Parting - farewell
61. Aura - atmosphere
62. Unceremoniously - suddenly
63. Policing - supervising
64. Unfettered - free
65. Expedition - journey
66. Gruff - rough
67. Hailed - brought
68. Haggled - bargained/ argued
69. Circumambulating - walking around
70. Mischief - trickery/ to make fun
71. Provocatively - challengingly
72. Snubbed - rejected
73. Eavesdropped - listened secretly
74. Harpooned - tie together piercing with a harpoon
75. Immemorial - ancient
76. Gaunt - thin
77. Deprecating - disapproving
78. Pipe and drum - musical instruments
79. Din - noise
80. A mean sort - a bad person
81. Procession - parade
82. Clad - clothed
83. Tweed - woolen fabric
84. Vehement - passionate
85. Harassed - troubled
86. Overlooked - ignored
87. Consummate - complete
88. Prostrating - bowing
89. Rites - ceremonial activities
90. Consolation - comfort
91. Martyred - suffered
92. Precedence - priority
93. Slip - mistake
94. Downright - absolutely
95. Hullabaloo - fuss
96. Temerity - boldness



97. Nuptial suite - wedding chamber
98. Nuisance - annoyance
99. Unseemly - improper
100. Sulked - thought deeply
101. Inordinate - excessive
102. Bragging - boasting
103. Frivolous - foolish
104. Defilement - pollution
105. Satiated - satisfied
106. Impotent - infertile/ can't have children
107. Consternation - alarmed
108. Adequate - enough
109. Celibacy - staying away from marriage and sex
110. Taunted - made fun of
111. Ravishing - causing pleasure
112. Hardihood - boldness
113. Fecundity - fertility
114. Compatible - going well together
115. Mitigating - reducing
116. Strain - tension
117. Solicitude - concern
118. Tend - take care
119. Shrick - scream
120. Manures - fertilizers
121. Roused - awakened
122. Boulder - rock
123. Interminable - endless
124. Irascibly - annoyed
125. Exorbitant - excessive
126. Squirmed - turned

CHAPTER 13

Useful Quotations

- **At sixty, one is reborn and enters a new janma."** That was the reason why people celebrated their sixtieth birthdays. → society/ culture
- **"It's a duty I owe Mahatma Gandhi. I made a vow before him that I would spin every day of my life. I've got to do it, whether I'm at home or in a forest."** → Jagan's character
- **He longed for a nice, crowded send-off now. But only his brother was left of an entire generation. He felt a longing for a glimpse of him.** → Jagan's character
- **"Mali is in prison since last evening. ..."** → cousin's concern for Mali
- **"Oh, what can we do now? Poor boy! In the lock-up! He won't feel comfortable; he has always slept on a spring mat-tress, since he was seven. How can I get him out?"** Tears blurred his sight, → Jagan's character (love for Mali)
- **"Don't let that vagrant see the tears in your eyes."** The cousin was extremely practical and knew exactly what should be done. No wonder he was in such demand, thought Jagan. → cousin's character
- **"A doctor has to certify that he had administered two doses of a fever mixture earlier in the day, that is all."** → cousin receiving help to have Mali released
- **"You might not remember it now; but you will have to try and recollect how you threatened to report him to his officers,"** → cousin's speculations (trying to find fault in the policeman to free Mali)
- **"I will seek a new interest-different from the set of repetitions performed for sixty years. I am going somewhere, not carrying more than what my shoulder can bear.** → Jagan's departure
- **Forgive me if I say, 'Keep away from him.' He is a sorcerer: knows black magic and offers to transmute base metals into gold. . . ."** → cousin's character
- **"A dose of prison life is not a bad thing. It may be just what he needs now,"** → Jagan's character
- **"If you meet her, tell her that if she ever wants to go back to her country, I will buy her a ticket. It's a duty we owe her. She was a good girl."** → Jagan's character

Glossary

1. Bestirred - become active
2. Cornice - moldings
3. Fret - worry
4. Solemnization - ceremony
5. Probed - poked/ pricked
6. Fatiguing - tiring
7. Conundrums - puzzles
8. Loophole - a way to avoid
9. Ablution - cleansing
10. Renunciation - abandonment
11. Abnegation - self sacrifice
12. Retracting - leaving
13. Saddle - burden
14. Ditch - hole/ trench
15. Corrugated. - rigid
16. Illicit - illegal
17. Pontifically - authoritatively
18. Antecedents - things happened/ spoken before
19. Senile - aged
20. Impishly - playfully
21. Mala fides - dishonestly
22. Intimidated - scared
23. Preliminary - initial/ firstly



PILOT ANALYSIS

- Narayan's work is often noted for its realistic presentation of ordinary people living regular lives. Though the writing style and characters seem simplistic, the issues they wrestle with are complexly human. In *The Vendor of Sweets*, Jagan worries about his legacy, which will be carried on by both his shop and his son. He wrestles with living a life on which he can reflect with pride and contentment while malignant forces—the corrupting influence of capitalism, the desires of his needy son—threaten to lead him astray. While he strives to follow the teachings of Hinduism, he lives in a world that makes such piousness increasingly difficult. For example, when he reduces the prices of his sweets, hoping that more people will be able to enjoy them, his cousin suggests that perhaps people are buying them at the discounted price and then reselling them at their usual price in order to make a profit. This thought is greatly dispiriting to Jagan; while he fundamentally wants to believe in the goodness of others, he must also face the reality of a world in which the worship of wealth is beginning to supplant the worship of the Hindu gods.
- While some of Jagan's ideologies and practices may seem quaint and outdated, Mali functions as a warning against uninhibited modernity and progress. He is entitled and snobbish, looking down upon his hometown and its people and carrying himself "like a celebrity avoiding the attention of the rabble." Though he claims that the story-writing machine will elevate India to the same status as other countries with more prodigious literary outputs, he fails to realize that by mechanizing an art form, he is belittling the very culture he hopes to amplify. It is symbolic that he ends the novel in jail, having violated India's prohibition laws; his recklessness in the name of being "progressive" actually inhibits his ability to live freely.
- Though the novel never explicitly addresses the circumstances surrounding Ambika's death, it is heavily implied that Jagan's insistence on using only natural remedies in her treatment contributed to her fate. The anecdote about Jagan's refusing to give her aspirin when she had a headache and his belief that such pills are "poison" are further evidence that Jagan may have resisted the intervention of modern medicine in treating his wife. That her death is the turning point in Jagan and Mali's relationship indicates that Mali feels resentment and anger toward his father.

- Mali's rejection of all of Jagan's beliefs about diet and healthy living is also testament to this anger. However, just as father and son are unable to have an honest, straightforward conversation, so, too, is the novel unable to address this issue directly, instead relying on hints and insinuations to convey the root of Mali and Jagan's conflict.
- Religion and spirituality as a retreat from the world and a healer of ills is a constantly repeated motif in the book. Jagan reads the Bhagavad Gita daily to remind himself of the importance of keeping its words at the root of all he does. It is in the carver's grove, looking at the abandoned carvings of gods and goddesses, that Jagan experiences a revelatory moment of peace and contentment and begins to hatch his idea to retreat from society. Later, as he sits at the foot of the Sir Frederick statue, Jagan recalls that when he and Ambika had not yet had a child after ten years of marriage, they journeyed to the temple of Santana Krishna to pray for help in conceiving a baby—and their prayers were answered. Thus, Narayan suggests that religion contributes to a better understanding of and connection to the self; no matter how tumultuous the external world may be, spirituality can act as an inward anchor of stability.
- This book is notable for its refusal to offer a single solution or answer to the problems it addresses. The narrative voice also refrains from judging any of its characters; they are all flawed, but they are also real, and their motivations and desires are familiar. Narayan accepts the contradictions and complexities that are inherent to the human condition. A man can ban sugar from his diet yet still be the proprietor of a sweets shop. A son can love his father and still treat him poorly. A daughter-in-law can be a good person, even if she is not technically related to one by marriage. Truth exists at the intersections of these seemingly contradictory facts. Ultimately, Narayan offers the idea that everyone is trying their best, in the best way they know how: the scuffles and scrapes that occur along the way are a necessary side effect of being human..



- R. K. Narayan explores the relationship between worldly achievement and spiritual devotion through the character of Jagan, the sweets vendor of the title. Nearing retirement, Jagan reflects on his earlier dedication to just causes, planning to spend his last years in healthy, pious activities. Meanwhile, he does all he can to overlook the contradictions between having amassed wealth through his business, which wholly depends on other people's consumption of unhealthy confections, and the concerns that he now proposes to embrace. In part, Jagan is living in the past as he recalls his glory years, when he was involved with Mahatma Gandhi's nonviolent independence movement. Narayan shows how Jagan's hope of ignoring the vast changes that Indian society has undergone is challenged by the current generation, which is represented by his son and other foreign influences, largely embodied by his son's "wife" (they are actually not married).
- This generation gap includes the older man's resistance to British imperialism—a system superseded by Western globalization, which Mali, his son, seems to embrace: he sets off for the United States to find himself as a writer. His father is not only puzzled by this attitude toward employment and identity but further mystified when Mali returns, ostensibly married to a Korean American woman. Rather than find a calling in writing, Mali has turned into an entrepreneur; while this perspective might be expected to please his businessman father, the author shows how the son oversteps an ethical line, perhaps implying that father and son are alike in their hypocrisy.
- As the novel is more than a family drama, Narayan includes a genuinely spiritual character in Chinna Dorai, a hair dyer who was once apprenticed to a carver of sacred Hindu images. As Jagan connects with the importance of the dyer's mission to complete a carving of the deity Gayatri, he grows even more distant from his son. Through combined disregard of Indian custom and flagrant violation of Indian law, Mali runs afoul of the legal system. With the realization that his parenting has limitations and that India is not the same country he helped to create, Jagan decides to leave his worldly concerns behind, embracing a spiritual life of solitude in the garden he purchases from Chinna Dorai.

THEMES

- **Tradition vs. Change:** The theme of tradition clashing with change manifests through the two primary characters, with Jagan representing tradition and Mali representing change. Jagan's life is one of simplicity and ritual: he wears conventional Indian clothing consisting of a jibba and dhoti, made from material he spins himself; he reads the Bhagavad Gita daily; and he has tremendous pride in his country, coupled with a strong dislike of anything he deems "European" or "modern." He has a successful shop and a nice home, and he is content with these possessions. Jagan is also traditional in his beliefs: in the purity of one's diet, which should exclude beef and alcohol; in the sanctity of marriage; and in the importance of education. In contrast, Mali embraces all the ideas that his father rejects. He quits school, looks to America and Europe as examples of progressive modernity, seeks to make his fortune through a risky business venture, and lives out of wedlock with Grace under his own father's roof. Mali finds his father and his hometown to be provincial and quaint, tendencies that he believes limit their cultural and material potential.
- While the novel highlights the benefits and evils of both tradition and change, it does not offer a happy medium between the two. Jagan, finding the modern world too overwhelming, retreats to the carver's grove to live a life of solitude, while Mali ends the novel in jail, having broken the prohibition laws. They both are alone, without romantic partners, Jagan's wife having died and Grace having neither the money nor a reason to stay with Mali, due to the failed business enterprise. Though Jagan has money, he has no place or reason to spend it; Mali is penniless without the financial backing of his father. Neither character manages to find a middle ground.
- **Parenting:** Jagan's son, Mali, is spoiled, entitled, and misguidedly ambitious. His refusal to communicate transparently with his father causes many of the book's conflicts. Despite the fact that the many luxuries he enjoys—such as an expensive American education and a nice home—are paid for with his father's money, he is disdainful of the reason for that money, dismissing his father's sweets shop as a business that is "beneath" him and loudly asserting that he is meant to accomplish more impressive goals.
- **Generational Conflict:** The novel also addresses the theme of generational conflict, especially between Jagan and his son, Mali. Jagan's idealistic views and adherence to traditional ways of life are in stark contrast to Mali's desire to live independently and pursue modern, Westernized aspirations. This conflict highlights the challenges many families face when navigating cultural and ideological differences across generations.



- **Materialism and Consumerism:** As Mali grows up, he becomes obsessed with material wealth, technology, and the allure of the Western world. His involvement in various business ventures that prioritize profit over values creates a stark contrast with his father's more humble and spiritual approach to life. This theme critiques the growing materialism in post-colonial India and the impact of consumerism on personal relationships and social structures.
- **Spirituality and Self-Realization:** Jagan is portrayed as a deeply spiritual person. His worldview is shaped by a connection to God and the belief that material wealth should not dominate one's life. His actions throughout the novel demonstrate his desire to live a simple, content life and his commitment to self-realization. The theme of spirituality is often seen in his thoughts, his business, and his interactions with others, especially as he seeks peace in his later years.
- **Isolation and Loneliness:** Throughout the novel, Jagan experiences a sense of isolation. His relationship with his son, Mali, is strained due to their conflicting worldviews, and he often feels alone in his values and lifestyle. Jagan's attempts to maintain his way of life lead him to a form of personal solitude, even though he is surrounded by people. This theme explores the emotional toll that clinging to one's ideals and dealing with changing times can take on a person.
- **The Search for Identity:** Both Jagan and Mali are on a quest for self-discovery and understanding. Jagan's search is more internal and philosophical, seeking peace through spirituality and living according to his principles. In contrast, Mali's search for identity is more external, involving his pursuit of Westernization, technology, and business success. The novel explores how different individuals approach the challenge of defining themselves in a rapidly changing world.
- **The Role of Family and Duty:** Family dynamics play a significant role in *The Vendor of Sweets*. Jagan's relationship with his son is central to the narrative, and much of the story revolves around his attempts to understand and deal with Mali's choices. Jagan also faces the dilemma of balancing his duty as a father with his personal beliefs. The theme of familial duty and sacrifice is explored, highlighting the complexities of parental love, generational expectations, and individual freedom.
- **Socio-Economic Changes:** The novel also reflects the broader social and economic changes in post-independence India. The transition from a colonial economy to an independent one, as well as the rise of consumerism, is subtly depicted through the characters' lives and choices. The changing economic landscape influences not only Jagan's business but also his views on wealth and success.



Jagan

Jagan is the novel's protagonist and Mali's father. A widower, he owns a sweets shop but ironically has banned salt and sugar from his diet, living a life of strict asceticism in the image of Mahatma Gandhi. He has many theories about naturopathy and wellness, which he plans to publish in a book. A devout reader of the Bhagavad Gita, Jagan preaches piousness and nonattachment. However, he makes his living by profiting from the material wants of others. His greatest pride and love is his son, Mali, whom he parents with excessive permissiveness. Because he cannot say no to Mali, he finds himself in an estranged relationship with him, with communication between the two often being facilitated by Jagan's cousin. Jagan increasingly ponders philosophical ideas as the novel progresses, even though he is continually challenged in these efforts by worries about his son, his business, and his house. He works to negotiate living in a material and contemporary world while holding on to more spiritual and traditional beliefs, ultimately renouncing everything—his store, his house, and the responsibility he feels for his son—in order to live a life of freedom. As a widower, a father, and a successful sweet vendor in Malgudi, he represents the older generation's values, shaped by Gandhian principles and a simple way of life. His character undergoes significant internal conflict as he struggles to reconcile his ideals with the modern aspirations of his son, Mali.

- 1. Traditional and Conservative:** Jagan is deeply rooted in tradition and follows a disciplined lifestyle based on Gandhian principles. He believes in self-reliance, simplicity, and non-violence. His adherence to natural remedies, vegetarianism, and religious rituals reflects his conservative mindset. He even makes his own shoes to avoid buying foreign products, showing his commitment to self-sufficiency.
- 2. Hardworking and Self-Sufficient:** Jagan is a dedicated businessman who takes pride in his sweet shop, which he runs with honesty and discipline. Unlike his son, he values hard work and personal effort, believing that success should come through perseverance rather than shortcuts.



3. **Loving but Distant Father:** While Jagan loves Mali, their relationship is strained due to generational and ideological differences. He finds it difficult to communicate with his son, and his approach to parenting is passive rather than authoritative. Instead of directly confronting Mali about his decisions, Jagan often resorts to indirect methods, such as seeking advice from his cousin.
4. **Idealistic but Naïve:** Jagan's idealism makes him somewhat naive, especially in dealing with his son. He initially believes that his values will naturally influence Mali, but he is ultimately shocked by Mali's rejection of tradition. His naivety is also evident when he blindly trusts Mali's intentions regarding the business proposal, only to later realize his son's opportunistic motives.
5. **Struggles with Change and Modernity:** Jagan finds it difficult to adapt to the modern world that Mali represents. He disapproves of Mali's decision to abandon his studies, move to America, and live with Grace without a proper marriage. His discomfort with Western influences reflects the broader conflict between tradition and modernity in post-independence India.
6. **Journey to Self-Realization:** Jagan undergoes a transformation by the end of the novel. Initially, he is overwhelmed by Mali's defiance and feels powerless in the face of changing times. However, after Mali's arrest, he decides to step away from his responsibilities, handing over his business and retreating into a more spiritual life. This decision represents his realization that he cannot control everything and must seek inner peace.

Conclusion:

Jagan is a well-rounded character who embodies the conflict between tradition and modernity. His struggles with his son, his business, and his values make him a deeply human figure, representing the older generation's challenge in adapting to a changing society. His eventual withdrawal from worldly affairs suggests that true peace lies in detachment rather than control.



Mali

Mali is Jagan's son. He lost his mother at a young age and thus has grown up under Jagan's care. When he announces to his father that he is quitting school and moving to America to study to be a writer, he uses his father's money to fund his plans. When he returns years later, with a woman whom he introduces as his wife and a business plan, he likewise expects Jagan to fund his venture. Mali believes that India is stuck in its tradition and history and is thus lagging behind the cultural output of Western nations. He finds his father's asceticism silly and indulges his own material desires, such as buying himself a car. Mali wishes to live a life of progressivism and modernity, but his ambition causes him to treat others poorly, exemplifying everything that Jagan believes is wrong with a capitalist mindset. His entitlement can be grating, particularly when he sneers at his own father's business, a business that Jagan has carefully operated to provide financial security for Mali. Mali's inability to communicate clearly and effectively with his father generates much of the conflict and tension in the novel. His character serves as a foil to his father, highlighting generational differences in values, ambitions, and lifestyles.

- 1. Rebellious and Disrespectful:** Mali rejects his father's traditional values and business ethics. He shows little respect for Jagan's way of life, including his strict adherence to Gandhian principles and frugality. His decision to abandon his studies and leave for America without consulting his father is an early sign of his rebellious nature.
- 2. Influenced by Western Ideals:** Mali adopts a Western lifestyle after moving to America. He returns to India with an American girlfriend, Grace, whom he presents as his wife despite not officially marrying her. He also embraces modern business practices and proposes a factory manufacturing writing machines, disregarding and undervaluing his father's business of making and selling sweets.



3. **Materialistic and Opportunistic:** Unlike Jagan, who values simplicity and self-sufficiency, Mali is driven by materialistic ambitions. His desire to establish a factory which manufactures story-writing machines, reflects his focus on profit and efficiency rather than tradition and personal integrity. Additionally, he manipulates his father's emotions to secure financial support, showing his opportunistic tendencies.
4. **Irresponsible and Arrogant:** Mali lacks discipline and responsibility. He fails to complete his education, indulges in Western luxuries, and refuses to work hard like his father. His arrogance is evident in his dismissive attitude toward Jagan's traditional beliefs and his assumption that his modern ideas are superior.
5. **Tragic Downfall:** Mali's journey ends in failure and disgrace when he is arrested for possessing illegal alcohol. His downfall symbolizes the consequences of reckless ambition and disregard for cultural roots. Ultimately, his fate serves as a lesson about the importance of balance between tradition and modernity.

Conclusion:

Mali represents the younger generation's struggle between tradition and modernity. His character contrasts sharply with Jagan's, emphasizing themes of cultural conflict, generational tension, and the pitfalls of blind Westernization. His downfall serves as a critique of unchecked ambition and the loss of moral grounding.



Grace

Grace is a significant character in R.K. Narayan's *The Vendor of Sweets*. She is introduced as Mali's wife, later referred to as his girlfriend, and plays a crucial role in highlighting the cultural and generational conflicts in the novel.

- 1. A Symbol of Modernity and Western Influence:** Grace is an American woman who accompanies Mali to India, representing Western values, independence, and modern ways of thinking. Her presence in Jagan's traditional household challenges his deeply rooted beliefs, particularly concerning marriage, relationships, and family structure.
- 2. Polite and Respectful:** Unlike Mali, who is arrogant and dismissive toward his father, Grace is polite and tries to maintain a respectful relationship with Jagan. She makes efforts to adapt to Indian customs and shows interest in Jagan's way of life, which contrasts with Mali's outright rejection of tradition.
- 3. A Bridge Between Jagan and Mali:** Grace attempts to mediate between Jagan and Mali, encouraging better communication. She represents a potential middle ground between tradition and modernity, as she is open to understanding Jagan's perspective while also supporting Mali's ambitions.
- 4. Victim of Deception:** Grace initially believed Mali would marry her, but it is later revealed that they were never formally married. This revelation highlights Mali's dishonesty and lack of responsibility.
- 5. Independent and Self-Respecting:** Unlike traditional Indian women in Jagan's time, Grace is independent and self-sufficient. She does not beg for acceptance but carries herself with dignity, even when faced with Mali's irresponsibility.

Significance of Grace's Character: Her presence highlights Mali's immaturity, deceit, and inability to respect relationships. She also forces Jagan to reconsider his rigid views on marriage and cultural differences. Grace represents a new, evolving world where tradition and modernity must coexist..



The Cousin

In *The Vendor of Sweets* by R.K. Narayan, the cousin plays a subtle yet influential role in the life of Jagan, the protagonist. He is an outgoing man who provides companionship and advice to Jagan, acting as a confidante and intermediary, especially in his strained relationship with his son, Mali.

- 1. Mediator and Advisor:** The cousin often acts as a bridge between Jagan and Mali, relaying messages and helping Jagan understand his son's perspective. He offers practical advice, especially regarding Jagan's business and personal matters.
- 2. Pragmatic and Worldly-Wise:** Unlike Jagan, who clings to Gandhian principles and traditional beliefs, the cousin has a more balanced and realistic view of the world. He understands modern changes and is more accepting of Mali's choices than Jagan.
- 3. Supportive yet Blunt:** He is sympathetic toward Jagan but does not hesitate to point out his flaws, such as his stubbornness and reluctance to change. His straightforward nature sometimes irritates Jagan, but he values his presence in his life.
- 4. A Symbol of Practical Wisdom:** While Jagan is lost in his ideals and struggles with the generational gap, the cousin represents a middle ground, navigating both tradition and modernity with ease. He is neither overly attached to the past nor blindly embracing the future, making him a voice of reason in the novel.

Significance of the Cousin's Character: He highlights Jagan's weaknesses and indirectly helps in his self-realization. His practicality contrasts with Jagan's idealism, reinforcing the novel's themes of generational conflict and adaptability. He serves as a sounding board for Jagan, allowing the reader to understand his internal conflicts more clearly.

Overall, the cousin in *The Vendor of Sweets* is a wise, grounded, and somewhat humorous character who provides a crucial balance to Jagan's rigid worldview.



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