

Brief Questions in Tree Without Roots

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- **When did Waliullah's literary activities begin?**

Ans:

His literary activities began at Feni High School. Here, he edited a handwritten magazine called Bhorer Alo.

- **What was the name of Waliullah's English journal?**

Ans:

The name of his English journal was "Contemporary."

- **When did he work as a sub-editor of The Statesman?**

Ans:

He worked as a sub-editor of The Statesman in Calcutta during 1945-47.

- **What is the original Bengali title of "Tree Without Roots?"**

Ans:

The original Bengali title is Lal Shalu.

- **What does the title Lal Shalu mean?**

Ans:

In Bangla, lal means red, and shalu means a piece of cloth. Thus, Lal Shalu means "a piece of red cloth."

- **Why does the raped and ravaged land yield no more?**

Ans:

Because it is overploughed and overused throughout the year without proper nourishment.

- **How does the muezzin appear to the hunter at the Garo Hills?**

Ans:

He appears lonely, with sadness in his eyes.

- **What does Taher's and Kader's fishing scene imply?**

Ans:

It implies that the villagers do not suffer from food shortage.

- **When and where do Taher and Kader see the stranger?**

Ans:

They see him at sunset, standing on Matiganj Road beside the marshy paddy fields.

- **With what is Majeed's entry into Mahabbatpur compared?**

Ans:

It is compared to a huge tree striking roots deep into the soil.

- **How does an ordinary grave turn into a mazar?**

Ans:

Majeed clears and decorates the grave with a red cloth and silver trimmings, turning it into a holy shrine.

- **Who is the head of Nawabpur village?**

Ans:

Matlub Khan is the powerful head of the village and local leader.

- **How does Majeed behave toward the old man?**

Ans:

He behaves rudely, scolding him for not knowing the Kalma and ordering him to learn it.

- **How does the pir's fame grow?**

Ans:

His fame spreads through tales of his holiness and miraculous power told from village to village.

- **Why does Majeed take a wife?**

Ans:

He needs a wife to manage his household and domestic chores after settling in Mahabbatpur.

- **Why does Amena want blessed water from the pir?**

Ans:

As a childless woman, she believes drinking the pir's blessed water will help her conceive.

- **What does Majeed say to Khaleque about his wife?**

Ans:

He claims Amena has "coils" in her womb that prevent pregnancy and that only his blessing can cure her.

- **How does Amena feel in the mazar room?**

Ans:

She feels strangely quiet and motionless in the sacred atmosphere of the room.

- **Why is Rahima concerned about Amena?**

Ans:

Because Amena faints during her long fast and Rahima fears for her safety.

- **Describe Amena's delirium.**

Ans:

In her sleep, Amena dreams of a black bull rushing toward her and wakes up terrified.

- **Why does Jamila fail to say her last prayer of the day?**

Ans:

She falls asleep before she can complete the prayer.

- **Why does Majeed leave his own village?**

Ans:

A saint named Shah Sadeque appeared in his dream, ordering him to go to Mahabbatpur.

- **What was Majeed's profession in Garo Hills?**

Ans:

He was a muezzin (caller to prayer).

- **On what pretext did Majeed marry Jamila?**

Ans:

He married her on the pretext of wanting to have children.

- **Who is Dhola Mian?**

Ans:

He is Khaleque's brother-in-law.

- **What is the central theme of Tree Without Roots?**

Ans:

The novel's central theme is the struggle for survival in a corrupt, faith-driven society.

- **What is the main source of Majeed's power?**

Ans:

The mazar (grave shrine) of the unknown saint.

- **Why is Amena Begum punished?**

Ans:

Because she sought blessed water from another pir, which Majeed took as an insult.

- **Why does Majeed call Rahima the pillar of the house?**

Ans:

Because she is loyal, gentle, hardworking, and manages all family affairs with devotion.

- **What does Khaleque do to collect the blessed water?**

Ans:

He secretly sends his brother-in-law, Dhola Mian, to the pir to bring the blessed water for Amena.

Lx Notes