

3. Iswaran the Storyteller

Q1: In what way is Iswaran an asset to Mahendra ?

A: Iswaran works for Mahendra. He cooks his food and washes his clothes. He packs lunch for him. He is a good entertainer for him. He entertains him by inventing imaginary stories. In this way, he is an asset to him.

Q2: How does Iswaran describe the uprooted tree on the highway? What effect does he want to create in his listeners?

A: Iswaran describes the uprooted tree with dramatic effects. He raises his hands and eyebrows. He builds up suspense by his description. Then he says that he saw something huge like a bushy beast. It lay spreading across the road. It affects his listeners emotionally. They are easily affected.

Q3: How does he narrate the story of the tusker? Does it appear to be plausible?

A: He narrates the story of the tusker with great confidence. First he builds up a sound background for it. With these the story seem convincing. It is because there is some supernatural in the story.

Q4: Why does the author say that Iswaran seemed to more than make up for the absence of a TV in Mahendra's living quarters?

A: Iswaran is a good narrator. He is also an entertainer like TV. Iswaran builds up suspense slowly. This affects Mahendra. Then he starts taking interest in his stories. This is all like the TV. So Mahendra does not need it.

Q5: Mahendra calls ghosts or spirits a figment of the imagination. What happens to him on a full moon night?

A: Mahendra calls ghosts or spirits a figment of the imagination. But on a full moon night, Mahendra sees a cloudy form. It had a bundle. He thinks it the female ghost. She is clutching a foetus. Iswaran has told of it to Mahendra earlier. So he sees it. He then breaks into a cold sweat.

Q: Why did mahendra have to move from place to place?

A: Mahendra was a junior supervisor in a firm. It offered on hired supervisors at various places of construction sites. These were factories, bridges, dams etc. His job was to supervise these activities at the work sites. So he kept moving from place to place now and then.

Q: Describe the horrible experience of Mahendra during the full moon night.

A: Iswarn told Mahendra that the place where there was factory; used to be a graveyard. Since that day Mahendra's mind was uneasy. He could look out into the night to see any such thing. One night he was woken up by a low moan. He thought it could be a cat. But the wailing became louder and louder. He then looked at the white sheet of moonlight outside. There he saw a cloudy form clutching a bundle. He thought this was the female ghost. Iswaran had also told Mahendra about this female ghost earlier. Mahendra broke into a cold sweat. He fell back on the pillow breathing heavily.

Next morning he had forgotten about it. But Iswaran reminded him of it. A chill went down Mahendra's body. He left the place the very next day.