

CHAPTER 4 – THE RATTRAP (SATQ)

Q1. What did the rattrap seller think of the world?

The rattrap seller thought that the world is a rattrap which attracts the people towards it through riches, joys and entertainment. Moreover, he thought that he would once get trapped in this world as a rat gets trapped in the greed of a piece of cheese & pork.

Q2. How did the crofter behave with the peddler? Had he expected that much of hospitality?

The crofter behaved genuinely with the peddler by sheltering, offering him food, serving him tobacco & sharing his sentiments with him. No, he had not expected any hospitality from him since he was looked down upon wherever he went.

Q3. What other business was the peddler engaged in?

The peddler got engaged in a couple of more businesses except rattrap selling. He got involved in begging and petty thieveries for his survival. He begged the material from the scrap shop and made rattraps from that material.

Q4. How did he respond to the hospitality shown by the crofter?

He responded negatively to the hospitality shown by the crofter. He stole his thirty kronors that he had earned by selling the milk of his bossy cow. In this way, he cheated on the crofter.

Q5. Why did the peddler choose woods instead of public highway?

He chose woods because he had fear of being caught by the police. In order to escape, he diverted himself towards the woods instead of going through public highway.

Q6. What did the peddler notice after running through the woods all the day? Could he escape?

The peddler noticed that he was at the same place where he started in the morning. He once again felt that the world was a rattrap & he was a rat who had got trapped in that world. Yes, he escaped when he heard the sound of thumping iron; he moved towards its sound & reached Ramsjo Ironworks.

Q7. What did the ironmaster mistake while inspecting his iron mill?

Ironmaster, while inspecting, got to see a man sleeping in front of the furnace. He mistook him as an old acquaintance that once used to work him in his regiment. He requested the peddler to come along with him to his home.

Q8. Why did the peddler forbid him to go to his home?

The peddler knew that he was not the friend of ironmaster's. He thought going to his home would be to put himself deliberately in lion's den. In order to avoid his arresting by the sheriff, he forbade him to go to ironmaster's home.

Q9. When did the ironmaster realize his mistake?

The ironmaster realized his mistake when he saw the peddler after having taken bath & been shaved. He threatened him to leave his home otherwise he would get him arrested.

Q10. Why did the ironmaster send his daughter to the peddler?

When ironmaster's adamancy reached its peak, he thought it would be a better idea to send his daughter to his friend to convince him. He knew his daughter had better persuasion powers & she could easily convince any one. Therefore, he sent his daughter over there.

Q11. Who was Edla Willmanson? Why did she want the peddler to stay with them?

Edla Willmanson was the only daughter of the ironmaster. When she saw that her father wanted that man to be out of their home, she interfered & requested him to let him stay at their home since the next day was Christmas. Seeing her assurance, the ironmaster acceded to her request.

Q12. What did the ironmaster and his daughter get to hear at Church?

The ironmaster & his daughter get to hear that one of their employees had been robbed by a man who went around selling ratttraps. They doubted the man who was staying at their home.

Q13. What had the peddler left for Edla Willmanson?

The peddler had left a packet containing a ratttrap, 30 kronors to be returned back to the crofter & a letter for Edla Willmanson in jagged letters. Moreover, he signed himself as Captain Von Stahle.

Q14. Why did the peddler sign himself as Captain Von Stahle?

The peddler signed himself as Captain Von Stahle because he was treated as a captain at Ironmaster's home. He was not only offered delicious food to eat but a due respect which changed him from a wild beast into a man.

Q15. What did the peddler write in the letter?

The peddler wrote that he had been transformed into a man by Edla Willmanson with her love. She changed him completely. Now he had stopped robbing people and stealing their money.

Q16. What two things did the peddler do throughout the day?

The peddler got engaged in two activities throughout the day. First one was to sleep and second was to eat. He slept all the day as if he slept for the first time in his life and eat as though it was the first time he ate such delicious food.

Q17. "If it's me today, it's you tomorrow" when did the peddler utter those words? How did he justify himself?

The peddler uttered those words when he was threatened by the ironmaster to be handed over to the police. He justified himself stating that was not his fault rather the fault of him and his daughter who deliberately wanted to bring him to their homes.

Q18. Why did the peddler want to get into the iron mill?

The peddler wanted to get into the iron mill since it had been raining outside. Moreover, it was extremely cold outside & he was wearing rags. In order to protect himself from coldness, he had to get into the iron mill.

CHAPTER-4 THE RATTRAP (LATQ)

Q1. Give a brief character sketch of the rattrap seller.

The rattrap seller was a tramp who kept on wandering here and there for selling his hand made rattraps. He always wore rags and looked for a place for shelter. But he was neither welcome nor respected anywhere. As a result, he thought that the world was a rattrap & they all were rats who had to get trapped into that rattrap that day or the previous day. He cheated on the man who sheltered him, offered him food and shared his emotions with him. He stole his thirty kronors and ran away through the woods where he found himself trapped. Later on, he reached Ramsjo iron mill where he was mistaken as an old acquaintance by the owner. He was brought to the home with the help of iron master's daughter. He had

gone there with an intention of stealing something but when he saw the hospitality of Edla, he mended his way and got changed into a man from a wild beast. In the end, he returned all the stolen kronors back to the crofter and thanked Edla for changing him into a man. In the end, he signed himself as Captain Von Stahle and returned back to his work.

Q2. Anyone can be changed with love and care? Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons in support to your answer.

Yes, I think anyone can be changed with love and affection. One can be made to understand by showing concern and attention towards him. Love is the only one that can help converting a wild beast into a man as we read in the chapter 'The rattrap' that how a man who was used to stealing and robbing the people. How he was transformed into a human by Edla through her love and respect. The man who thought of stealing others returned the stolen money and assured her of not repeating such mistakes again. In this way we can say that not only the rattrap seller but everyone in this world can be set to right way through love and respect towards him. Moreover, one should be given proper time and care to see the change in one's life.