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Class-XII

English

Vistas

Chapter-4

The Enemy

Part - 5



Pearl S. Buck

Neha Rajvanshi

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But by then the messenger had simply followed her through the garden and there he stood. She pointed at him helplessly.

Sadao looked up from his book. He was in his office, the other partition of which was thrown open to the garden for the southern sunshine.

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"What is it?" he asked the messenger and then he rose, seeing the man's uniform.

"You are to come to the palace," the man said. "The old General is in pain again."

"Oh," Hana breathed, "is that all?"

"All?" the messenger exclaimed. "Is it not enough?"

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fright : डर

"Indeed it is," she replied. "I am very sorry."

When Sadao came to say goodbye, she was in the kitchen, but doing nothing. The children were asleep and she sat merely resting for a moment, more exhausted from her fright than from work.

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sake: के लिए

get rid of: छुटकारा पाना

"I thought they had come to arrest you", she said.

He gazed down into her anxious eyes. "I must get rid of this man for your sake," he said in distress. "Somehow I must get rid of him."

(Sadao goes to see the General)

"Of course," the General said weakly, "I understand fully. But that is because, I once took a degree in Princeton. So few Japanese have."

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indispensable : आवश्यक
skilled: कुशल

"I care nothing for the man, Excellency," Sadao said, "but having operated on him with such success..."

"Yes, yes" the General said. "It only makes me feel you more indispensable to me. Evidently you can save anyone — you are so skilled.

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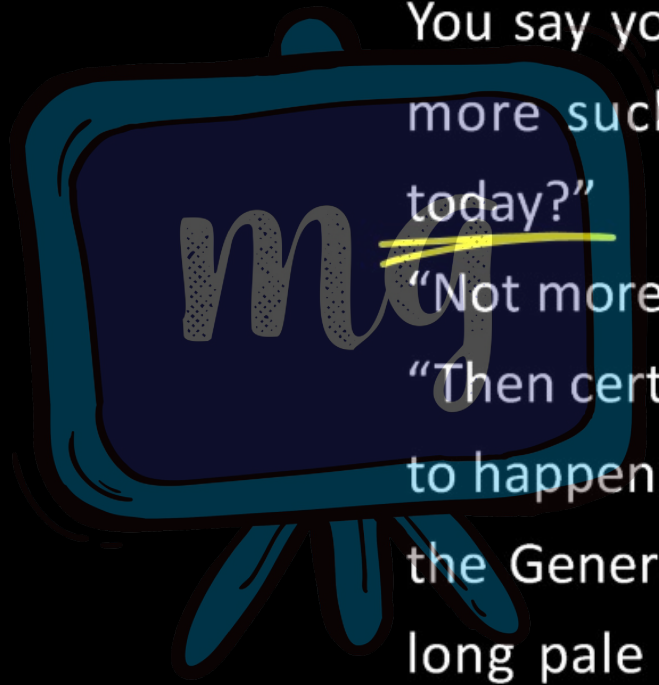

You say you think I can stand one more such attack as I have had today?"

"Not more than one," Sadao said.

"Then certainly I can allow nothing to happen to you,"

the General said with anxiety. His long pale Japanese face became expressionless, which meant that he was in deep thought.

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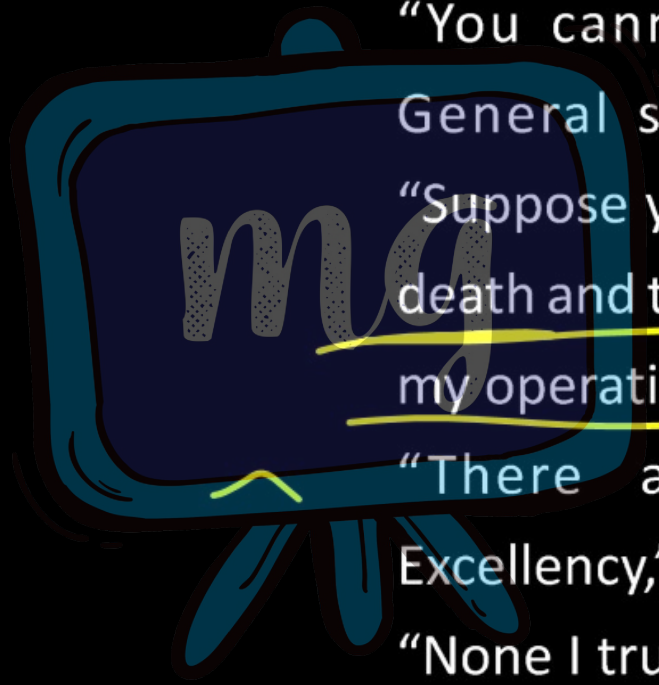

"You cannot be arrested," the General said, closing his eyes. "Suppose you were condemned to death and the next day I had to have my operation?"

"There are other surgeons, Excellency," Sadao suggested.

"None I trust," the General replied.

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pity : दया

"The best ones have been trained by Germans and would consider the operation successful even if I died. I do not care for their point of view." He sighed. "It seems a pity that we cannot better combine the German ruthlessness with the American sentimentality.

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elements: तत्व

Then you could turn your prisoner over to execution and yet I could be sure you would not murder me while I was unconscious." The General laughed. He had an unusual sense of humour. "As a Japanese, could you not combine these two foreign elements?" he asked.

Sadao smiled. "I am not quite sure,"

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willing : इच्छुक
overwhelmed : भावुक होना

he said, "but for your sake I would be willing to try, Excellency."

The General shook his head. "I had rather not be the test case," he said. He felt suddenly weak and overwhelmed with the cares of his life as an official in times such as these when repeated victory brought great responsibilities all over the south Pacific.

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unfortunate : दुर्भाग्य
irritably: गुस्से से

"It is very unfortunate that this man should have washed up on your doorstep," he said irritably.

"I feel it so myself," Sadao said gently.

"It would be best if he could be quietly killed," the General said.

"Not by you, but by someone who does not know him.

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assassins: हत्यारे

I have my own private assassins. Suppose I send two of them to your house tonight or better, any night. You need know nothing about it. It is now warm — what would be more natural than that you should leave the outer partition of the white man's room open to the garden while he sleeps?"

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yawning: उबासी लेते हुए
capable : योग्य

"Certainly it would be very natural," Sadao agreed. "In fact, it is so left open every night."

"Good," the General said, yawning. "They are very capable assassins — they make no noise and they know the trick of inward bleeding. If you like I can even have them remove the body."

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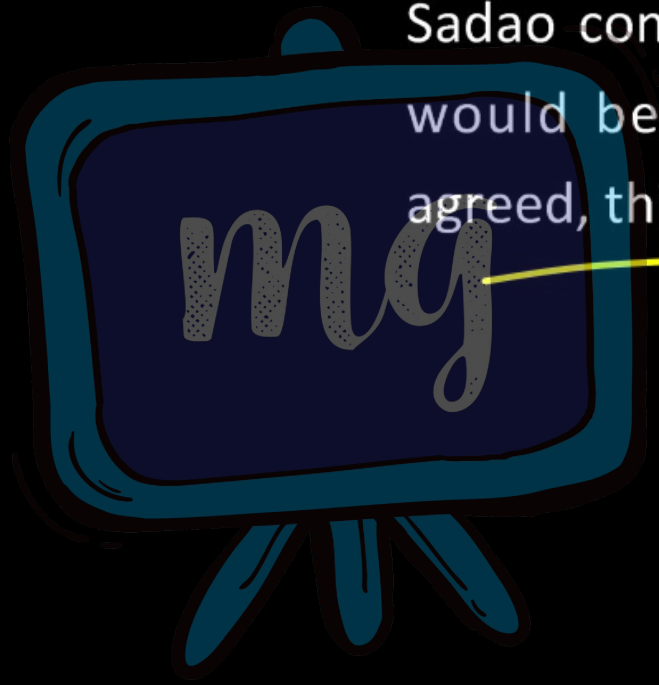

Sadao considered. “That perhaps would be best, Excellency,” he agreed, thinking of Hana.

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timid : डरपोक

essential : आवश्यक

He left the General's presence then and went home, thinking over the plan. In this way the whole thing would be taken out of his hands.

He would tell Hana nothing, since she would be timid at the idea of assassins in the house, and yet certainly such persons were essential in an absolute state such as Japan was. How else could rulers deal with those who opposed them?

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He refused to allow anything but reason to be the atmosphere of his mind as he went into the room where the American was in bed. But as he opened the door, to his surprise he found the young man out of bed, and preparing to go into the garden.

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gaily: खुशी से

stiff: कठोर

"What is this!" he exclaimed. "Who gave you permission to leave your room?"

"I'm not used to waiting for permission," Tom said gaily.

"Gosh, I feel pretty good again! But will the muscles on this side always feel stiff?"

"Is it so?" Sadao inquired, surprised. He forgot all else.

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bother : परेशान होना
gaunt : दुबला-पतला
stubbly : छोटे

"Now I thought I had provided against that," he murmured.

He lifted the edge of the man's shirt and gazed at the healing scar.

"Massage may do it," he said, "if exercise does not."

"It won't bother me much," the young man said. His young face was gaunt under the stubbly blond beard.

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"Say, Doctor, I've got something I want to say to you. If I hadn't met a Jap like you — well, I wouldn't be alive today. I know that."

Sadao bowed but he could not speak.

"Sure, I know that," Tom went on warmly. His big thin hands gripping a chair were white at the knuckles.

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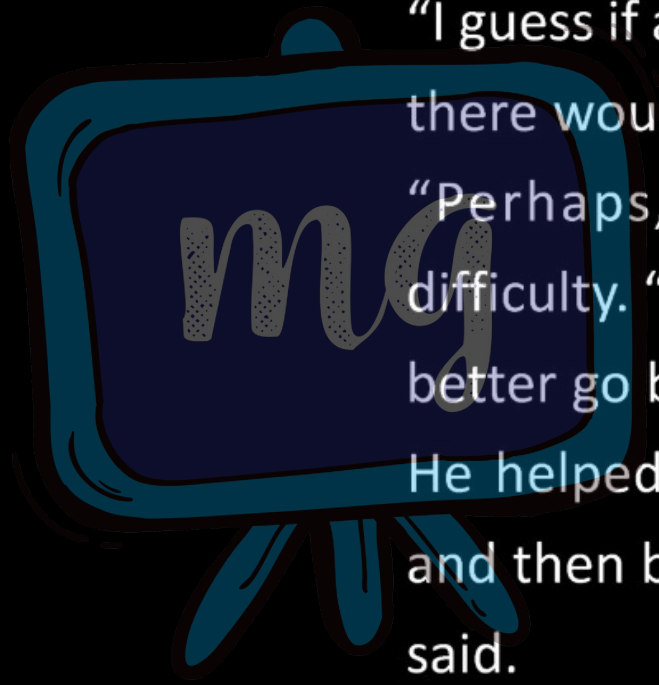

"I guess if all the Japs were like you there wouldn't have been a war."

"Perhaps," Sadao said with difficulty. "And now I think you had better go back to bed."

He helped the boy back into bed and then bowed. "Good night," he said.

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rustling : पैरो की आवाज

twig : टहनी

Sadao slept badly that night. Time and time again he woke, thinking he heard the rustling of footsteps, the sound of a twig broken or a stone displaced in the garden — a noise such as men might make who carried a burden.

The next morning he made the excuse to go first into the guest room.

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shaggy : अव्यवस्थित बाल

If the American were gone he then could simply tell Hana that so the General had directed. But when he opened the door he saw at once that there on the pillow was the shaggy blond head. He could hear the peaceful breathing of sleep and he closed the door again quietly.

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"He is asleep," he told Hana. "He is almost well to sleep like that."

"What shall we do with him?" Hana whispered her old refrain.

Sadao shook his head. "I must decide in a day or two," he promised.

But certainly, he thought, the second night must be the night.

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There rose a wind that night, and he listened to the sounds of bending boughs and whistling partitions.

Hana woke too. “Ought we not to go and close the sick man’s partition?” she asked.

“No,” Sadao said. “He is able now to do it for himself.”

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But the next morning the American was still there.

Then the third night of course must be the night.

The wind changed to quiet rain and the garden was full of the sound of dripping eaves and running springs.

Sadao slept a little better, but he woke at the sound of a crash and leaped to his feet.

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wail: जोर से रोना

"What was that?" Hana cried. The baby woke at her voice and began to wail. "I must go and see,"

But he held her and would not let her move.

"Sadao," she cried, "what is the matter with you?"

"Don't go," he muttered, "don't go!"

His terror infected her and she stood breathless, waiting. There was only silence.

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Together they crept back into the bed, the baby between them.

Yet when he opened the door of the guest room in the morning there was the young man. He was very gay and had already washed and was now on his feet. He had asked for a razor yesterday and had shaved himself and today there was a faint colour in his cheeks.

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weary : थकी हुयी
strain: परेशानी/तनाव

"I am well," he said joyously. Sadao drew his kimono round his weary body. He could not, he decided suddenly, go through another night. It was not that he cared for this young man's life. No, simply it was not worth the strain. "You are well," Sadao agreed. He lowered his voice.

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shore : किनारा

row : नाव चलाना

fortifying: सुरक्षित करना

submerged: पानी में डुबना

"You are so well that I think if I put my boat on the shore tonight, with food and extra clothing in it, you might be able to row to that little island not far from the coast. It is so near the coast that it has not been worth fortifying. Nobody lives on it because in storm it is submerged.

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comprehending:
समझते हुए

But this is not the season of storm. You could live there until you saw a Korean fishing boat pass by. They pass quite near the island because the water is many fathoms deep there."

The young man stared at him, slowly comprehending.

"Do I have to?" he asked.

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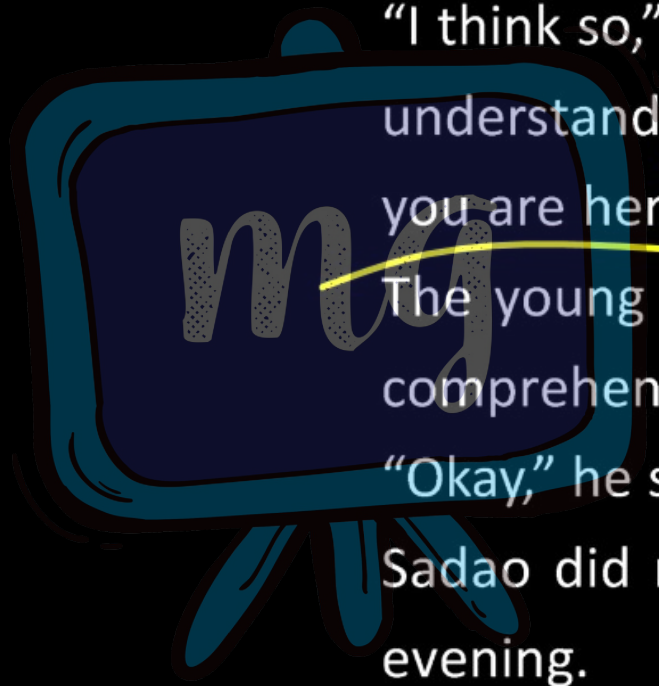

"I think so," Sadao said gently. "You understand — it is not hidden that you are here."

The young man nodded in perfect comprehension.

"Okay," he said simply.

Sadao did not see him again until evening.

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dragged : खींचना
stout : बड़ी

As soon as it was dark he had dragged the stout boat down to the shore and in it he put food and bottled water that he had bought secretly during the day, as well as two quilts he had bought at a pawnshop. The boat he tied to a post in the water, for the tide was high. There was no moon and he worked without a flashlight.

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When he came to the house he entered as though he were just back from his work, and so Hana knew nothing.

"Yumi was here today," she said as she served his supper.

Though she was so modern, still she did not eat with him.

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