

Story No 9. One Thousand Dollars

I. Answer the following in a sentence or two each:

1. What does the uncle leave Gillian in his will?

Uncle left total one thousand dollars in his will to Gillian.

2. What opinion does Gillian have considering the will?

Gillian found it odd and awkward receiving such a little amount in his will. He was used to spending even more than what he got in this will and he was actually feeling ashamed to receive such a little amount.

3. What was the request made by the uncle along with the will?

Uncle put a postscript with the will stating that Gillian would be required to keep accounts of the money he would spend and submit a report to Tolman and Sharp, Uncle's lawyers.

4. How did Gillian ultimately decide to spend the thousand dollars?

Gillian decided to give the thousand dollars to Miss Hayden whom he secretly loved as his uncle had left only one dollar and a ring to her.

5. Why did Gillian tear the envelope?

When Tolman and sharp informed Gillian about the secret condition of the will that he will get 50 thousand dollars if spent the thousand dollars wisely or the money will go to Miss Hayden, he tore the envelope because he actually wanted the money to be given to Miss Hayden.

II. Short Notes:

1. The Uncle's Plan with the Will

Gillian's late uncle left thousand dollars to his nephew Robert Gillian after his death. Not only this, he left a codicil to present a report of the accounts wherever he spent those thousand dollars. He put a secret envelope stating that if those thousand dollars spent wisely, he would be given fifty thousand dollars and if he just wasted the money, those fifty thousand

dollars will be transferred to Miss Hayden. By doing this, his uncle might be giving Gillian a lesson to value money and make good use of it as he was well aware of his spendthrift nature. He donated the rest of the amount to scientists who would invent bacteria and the rest to build hospital for it. He left his butler and Miss Hayden one dollar and a seal ring. Hence, his uncle wisely planned the will by giving money to the betterment of health and thereby giving a chance to Gillian to learn to make good use of money.

2. Character of Gillian

Gillian is the protagonist and the most interesting character in the story. He is a round character who witnesses a positive transformation by the end of the story. Gillian is introduced in the story making fun and feeling ridiculous to know that his uncle left him just thousand dollars. This shows that Gillian expected more than what he has received. Throughout the story he visits many people asking them to give him suggestions on how to spend those thousand dollars. While doing so, he comes across many characters who appear to be selfish, self centered and materialistic. Gillian realizes that they aren't going to be with him in the absence of money. Finally he decides to give his money to Miss Hayden whom his uncle hadn't left much. He does so because he loves her a lot. When he gets to know the secret condition of the will, he tears the envelope saying that he lost the money on horses. He lies intentionally because the secret will stated to transfer the money to Miss Hayden if he didn't spend those thousand dollars wisely. By taking this decision, Gillian is actually giving himself a chance to change and become selfless. He knows that he wouldn't make good use of those fifty thousand dollars. Instead he would just waste the amount. Hence, he just decides to give money to the one whom he deserves and would use it wisely. Gillian appears to be casual from his attitude when he tears the envelope up and whistling but actually has taken the most selfless and loving decision not reveling it to anyone. He has proven his love for Miss Hayden in real sense of the term.

3. Gillian's options of spending the money

Gillian was advised and offered many suggestions on how to spend the money. When he visited Old Bryson, he initially made fund and then said he could buy a happy home with thousand dollars. One can also send his wife South with it and save her life. He said Gillian to buy pure milk for one hundred babies during June, July and August and save fifty of their lives. He further said that he could invest the money in art gallery or donate it for education to an ambitious boy. He said that he could move to a new Hampshire town and live two years there. He could also rent Madison Square Garden for one evening and lecture his audience. Finally he suggested buying Miss Lotta Lauriere a diamond pendant with the money. The cab driver suggested him to open a saloon with thousand dollars. In Bryson's advice, we could see the materialistic suggestions revealing his own personality. In cab driver's suggestion, we could see the idea of progress which every middle class person would have to be rich.

4. The codicil to the will

Refer to Short note No. 1 (Uncle's Plan with the Will)

5. Gillian's action at the end

1. Refer to Short note No. 2 and Gillian's Character and Q.No.3 Why did Gillian give the money to Miss Hayden?

III Detailed question answers:

2. What is the irony in the story?

The irony in the story is that Gillian felt bad and awkward getting such a little amount in the will from his uncle in the beginning. Throughout the story, he kept meeting many people asking them their suggestions on how to spend money as he was supposed to submit a report of its expenses. When he realized that Ms Lotta Louriere wasn't actually interested in him, his focus shifted to his own self. Suddenly a spendthrift boy turned to become a selfless one. He went to meet Tolman and Sharp and inquired whether Miss Hayden was given anything else other than one dollar and a ring. When they replied in denial, he went to Miss Hayden and told her that his uncle's will had a postscript into which she was given thousand dollars.

As he was passing from the place, he was requested by the lawyers to give the amount to her. Thus, Gillian who was always considered materialistic and carried bad image in the family transformed to be a selfless man in the end. And that's the irony in the story. Not only that, but when he was informed by Tolman and Sharp about the secret condition of his uncle to be given fifty thousand dollars if he spent those thousand dollars wisely, he tore the envelope so that the money be transferred to Miss Hayden's account.

3. How does the author show the difference between expectations and reality?

The author presents expectations and reality in the story significantly through the character of Gillian who felt ashamed getting just thousand dollars in will from his uncle. He was used to spending much more than this. And he expected his uncle to give him more. He dreamt what he would have done if he had got fifty thousand dollars. But his uncle tactfully put a condition to present accounts wherever he spent those thousand dollars. When he couldn't decide what to do with the money he asked for advice from many people. It is only when he realized other characters to be self centered and selfish in the story; he turned to reality and became selfless deciding to give money to Miss Hayden whom he loved. The story reaches its height when Gillian tore up that envelope so that the entire amount of fifty thousand dollars is transferred to Miss Hayden, amount that he always dreamt to own. It seems that Gillian was not only being selfless but also knew that he would just waste all the money in materialistic pleasure even if he would get. So he decided to tear the envelope to give money to the right person who might use it in better way.

4. Why did Gillian give the money to Miss Hayden?

There are two reasons he gave money to Miss Hayden. He loved Miss Hayden a lot and therefore decided to give thousand dollars to her. When he came to know about the secret condition of getting fifty thousand dollars if spent the money wisely, he tore the envelope because he knew that he wouldn't make good use of money as he was used to just waste it.

This is how he is not only being selfless and loving but giving himself a chance to change his nature.

5. Why is Gillian considered the 'black sheep' of the family?

'Black Sheep' is an idiom that refers to the person who is useless and doesn't contribute much in the family. This word is used for Gillian in this short story. Gillian was a boy used to spend lots of money after materialistic pleasure. He would just spend it in wasteful things. That's why his uncle left him thousand dollars with a condition to spend it wisely. It can be said that his uncle knew his nature and hence wanted to give him a lesson to value money and spend it wisely. But this black sheep turned out to be the gem in the family by his wisest and selfless decision of giving all the money to Miss Hayden.

6. Who is Old Bryson and what role does he play in the story?

Old Bryson has not much role to play in the story except showing his ego and self centeredness in the story. When Gillian came to meet him and asked his advice on how to spend the money, he began dreaming what he would do if he got such a huge amount. His suggestions are highly materialistic and some of them practically not possible. Hence, he was giving advice to Gillian keeping himself in mind. He is a selfish man who just thinks about himself and cherishes his own ego. The author by his example wants to depict selfishness and self centeredness in the story.

Story No. 10 The Accompanist by Anita Desai

I Answer the following in a sentence or two each:

1. What is the name of the accompanist?

The Accompanist is known as Bhaiyya by everyone in the story.

2. What instrument did he deliver to Ustad Rahim Khan?

He delivered Tanpura to Ustad Rahim Khan.

3. What did Ustad ask him to play?

Ustad asked him to play Tanpura as his accompanist who played Tanpura for him was absent that night.

4. What did the accompanist's friends tell him?

The accompanist's friends told him that he was just wasting his life and career by playing Tanpura for Ustad and hence missing a big chance in life to be Ustad himself.

5. What was his reaction to his friends?

He felt so insulting and embarrassing that he couldn't actually react to them at once.

II Short Notes:

1. The narrator's character sketch:

The narrator, known as Bhaiyaa in the story gives us the account of his journey on how he ended up being an accompanist to the great musician Ustad Rahim Khan. He, in the beginning of the story tells us how he had the most accidental approach with Ustad and then was chosen by him to play Tanpura for him. He gives us detailed account of his upbringing, his childhood habits and mistakes and finally surrendered his entire career and life to serve to his Ustad.

Narrator is a thirty years old boy who has given an honest confession of the bond he shares with his Ustad. He is happy remaining in his company and he wants to continue it for lifetime. He is in bliss when he is with Ustad. Ustad has overpowered his life so much that he hardly visits his family or wife. And so does Ustad. Both stay together and make performances in various cities of the country. Ustad doesn't talk much with him but narrator feels theirs is a bond of love where there is no requirement of words. To him, his Ustad is his lord and he is happily ready to spend his entire life serving to him. He doesn't imagine his life finer than this. Hence, the narrator is a kind of person who has devoted his entire life to serve his Guru, his lord and celebrate music in his company.

2. The narrator's Upbringing:

The narrator's father was a noted instrument maker and player. He played all the instruments. He had deep knowledge and talent of instruments. He was revered in music fraternity. The narrator was brought up in an environment where he would constantly be surrounded by music since his childhood. The narrator's father and his father ran a traditional business of

instruments making. So he was brought up in the sounds knocking, tapping, planning and tuning. Music vibrated in the house constantly, sometimes harmoniously and sometimes bitterly. The air in his house was filled with dense, shaped and infinite variation. The narrator's father would wake the narrator up early at four o' clock when he was just four years old. He would give lessons of Tanpura, the harmonium, the sitar and even the tabala. He wanted to see which one the narrator had an aptitude for. The narrator sat cross legged on the mat before him and played gradually. His father could see it clearly that his son was a music performer and not maker. He taught him all the ragas and raginis and tested his knowledge with rapid questioning in his unmusical voice. He wanted to see his aptitude for music.

3. The Few Distractions of the Narrator in his childhood :

The narrator was given lessons of music by his father when he was just four years old. The narrator at that time would escape from the house and played gulli-danda, kho and marbles with the boys of his mohalla. He was crazy after the collection of the marbles. He would eat lots of sweet meats made by his mother. He would eat them so hot that it burnt the skin of his tongue. He stole his brothers' and sisters' share and was beaten and cursed by the whole family. When he was older, he got attracted to cinema. He saw more than six cinema shows in a week, creeping out of room at night barefoot, for silence, with stolen money from his father or mother. And sometimes later, he got addicted to the women of his mohalla. All these distractions of his childhood vanished when he met Ustad and began to play for him. He took the place of his mother's sweet halwa, the cinema heroines, the street beauties, marbles and stolen money. His existence was fulfilled in the accompaniment of his Ustad. He found purpose in his life and was satisfied to the extent that he no longer wish for anything else.

4. The Relationship between the narrator and the Ustad

Refer to short note 1(narrator's character sketch) and last question (What is the thought behind narrator's idea of destiny?)

III Detailed question answers:**1. How did the narrator end up playing as a part of Ustad's group?**

One day, the narrator's father sent him to give Tanpura to Ustad Rahim Khan, a noted sitar player. The narrator's father was a renowned maker of musical instruments. He was known for his talent and deep knowledge of making these instruments. When the narrator went to give Tanpura to Ustad, he was surrounded by his team on the stage. The narrator couldn't see him in the dim light. When he saw the Ustad, he was completely fascinated by his personality that was calm and purposeful. He presented the Tanpura to him and Ustad gave a glance to this boy of fifteen years old. He asked him about his father and further asked whether he could play Tanpura. It was the moment of permanent bonding between Guru and disciple. Ustad asked him to play Tanpura for him as his Tanpura player remained constantly absent. And this is how he became a Tanpura player of Ustad Rahim Khan's group.

2. Why do you think the narrator holds the Ustad in such high regard?

The narrator was enlightened by Ustad's calm and purposeful appearance in the first visit. When he saw him settling his sitar surrounded by his team, he couldn't move his eyes from him to anyone else. He just couldn't notice anyone else there. He craved strongly for him thinking that his life would be blessed if he got accompaniment of an Ustad like him. And immediately, Ustad paid attention to him and asked him to play Tanpura for him. This was a magical moment for the narrator as he got what he craved for. Hence, he had been playing Tanpura since fifteen years for his Ustad whom he revered like God. He believed that no matter what his friends told him, he was destined to be the accompanist and not the Ustad himself. And this gave him joy and aesthetic pleasure. He just wanted his Ustad's company. He wanted to spend his entire life in the accompaniment of ustad as his Tanpura player as he loved him the most. He shared a strong bond of love, commitment and dedication with his Ustad. He was satisfied being Ustad's accompanist and didn't have any other desire in life. He believed strongly

that it is not him who chose to be a Tanpura Player but it was Ustad who chose him to be his Tanpura Player like the god chose his disciple. He could have chosen anyone but he didn't choose anyone. He chose him. And when the god decides destiny for his disciple, how could he refuse it. The narrator believed that he could not have wished a finer destiny than to be a permanent disciple to his Ustad. These feelings make him adore his Ustad in high regard.

3. Is there any truth to what the narrator's friends were telling him?

Once when the narrator was playing Tanpura in the company of Ustad Rahim Khan at his own home, his friends came there without his knowledge and began disturbing the decent atmosphere. When the performance was over, they asked him to join for tea. He didn't wish to leave his Ustad's company but he went reluctantly not to sound rude. When they were having tea, one of the friends told him that he was wasting his life, career and talent by simply playing the boring Tanpura sitting behind an Ustad and leaving his chance of being a great Ustad himself. They advised him to leave playing this Tanpura and start performing on stage as the main musician. According to them, this would change his career and he would be thankful to his friends for guiding him at the right time in life. The narrator didn't like this advice, felt embarrassing and insulting and left from there without uttering a single word but later realized that his life was destined to play Tanpura for his master as it was a strong bond of love and commitment between disciple and guru. And his master had chosen him to which the disciple was unable to refuse. Hence, he felt his friends' advice futile and not true.

4. Why did the narrator's father teach him all the instruments?

The narrator's father was a noted instrument maker and player. He played all the instruments. He had deep knowledge and talent of instruments. He was revered in music fraternity. The narrator was brought up in an environment where he would constantly be surrounded by music since his childhood. The narrator's father and his father ran a traditional business of instruments making. So he was brought up in the sounds knocking,

tapping, planning and tuning. Music vibrated in the house constantly, sometimes harmoniously and sometimes bitterly. The air in his house was filled with dense, shaped and infinite variation. The narrator's father would wake the narrator up early at four o' clock when he was just four years old. He would give lessons of Tanpura, the harmonium, the sitar and even the tabala. He wanted to see which one the narrator had an aptitude for. The narrator sat cross legged on the mat before him and played gradually. His father could see it clearly that his son was a music performer and not maker. He taught him all the ragas and raginis and tested his knowledge with rapid questioning in his unmusical voice. He wanted to see his aptitude for music.

5. What is the thought behind narrator's idea of destiny?

Narrator believed that he was destined to be Ustad's accompanist. Hence, he had been playing Tanpura since fifteen years for his Ustad whom he revered like God. He believed that no matter what his friends told him, he was destined to be the accompanist and not the Ustad himself. And this gave him joy and aesthetic pleasure. He just wanted his Ustad's company. He wanted to spend his entire life in the accompaniment of ustad as his Tanpura player as he loved him the most. He shared a strong bond of love, commitment and dedication with his Ustad. He was satisfied being Ustad's accompanist and didn't have any other desire in life. He believed strongly that it is not him who chose to be a Tanpura Player but it was Ustad who chose him to be his Tanpura Player like the god chose his disciple. He could have chosen anyone but he didn't choose anyone. He chose him. And when the god decides destiny for his disciple, how could he refuse it. The narrator believed that he could not have wished a finer destiny than to be a permanent disciple to his Ustad.