

CBSE Class 09 English Language and Literature

Revision Notes

Beehive Chapter-5

The Snake and the Mirror

'The Snake and the Mirror' is a humorous story about a homeopath doctor. He tells us about his encounter with a snake.

In a hot summer night, the doctor returned to his rented room after having dinner at a nearby restaurant. As he opened the door, he heard a sound from above. He thought it to be rats, as he had many in his room. His room did not have electricity connection, so he lighted a kerosene lamp. He had just started his medical practice so his income was meagre. He had very few clothes.

He pulled his bed near the wall but could not sleep as it was hot. So he sat on the chair to read a book. He had a mirror on his table. He was an admirer of beauty and wanted to look handsome. So he looked into the mirror and corrected his hair. The doctor was also single. While he was praising himself in the mirror, he heard that sound again but ignored it. He decided to shave daily, grow a thin moustache and keep an attractive smile. He added humor to this by deciding to marry a wealthy but fat woman so that she can not run behind him.

Again there was a loud thud as if a rubber tube has fallen from above. Within a fraction of a second he noticed a fat snake wriggle over the back of the chair and landed over his shoulder. The snake coiled around the doctor's elbow and spread its hood in front of his face. The doctor was terribly shaken and felt like a statue of stone. He could feel the pain in his arm and seemed as if he was being crushed under the weight of the snake. He had all sorts of thoughts running through his head. He, now, was remembering only God. Suddenly, the snake turned its head and looked into the mirror and saw its reflection. Maybe the snake was also admiring its beauty, the doctor thought.

Slowly, the snake unwound itself from the doctor's arm and slithered into his lap. From there he crept on the table and moved towards the mirror. Perhaps it wanted to admire its reflection more closely.

The doctor gathered all his courage and leap towards the front door and ran into the veranda and reached his friend's house. He immediately smeared oil all over his body and took a bath and changed into fresh clothes.

Next morning ,he along with his few friends reached his room to move the things away from there. But to their astonishment, a thief had already taken all his belongings except for his dirty vest.