

4. THE PROFESSOR

(Nissim Ezekiel)

ESSAY ANSWER

How does Ezekiel describe the meeting between the Professor and his student?

Introduction:

"The Professor" is a satirical poem in the form of a conversation between a professor and his student. It is a humorous dramatic monologue. It indicates the common grammatical errors made by Indians who speak English even when they are not so good in it.

The Professor's sons:

The retired Geography Professor introduces himself as Professor Sheth who once taught Geography to that student. Then he describes his current position, his family and his health. All his children are well-established in their life. One of his sons is a Bank Manager, and another one is a Sales Manager. But his third son is not doing so well as the other two. He regards him as the 'black sheep' of the family.

The Professor's daughters:

The professor then talks about his daughters, Sarala and Tarala. They are married and are leading a happy life. His sons-in-law are very nice boys. The professor proudly says that he has eleven grandchildren. He asks his student how many issues he has. The student says three and the professor says that people are going in for family planning these days.

The Professor's health:

He is proud that he is keeping good health because of his good habits in youth. He is sixty-nine years old now and hopes to

live for a hundred years. He then asks the student about his health and he is happy to hear that he is keeping it up well.

Conclusion:

He jokes with his student that the latter was like a stick earlier but now he has gained weight and become a 'man of weight and consequence.' Finally, the professor asks him to pay a visit to his house.

PARAGRAPH ANSWERS

1. **What does the Professor say about his family?**

Ans: Reproduce Para 2 and 3 of the essay.

2. **What does the Professor say about his health?**

Ans: Reproduce Para 4 and 5 of the essay.

SHORT ANSWERS

1. **What does the Professor say about his sons?**

All his children are well-established in their life. One of his sons is a Bank Manager, and another is a Sales Manager. But his third son is not doing so well as the other two. He regards him as the 'black sheep' of the family.

2. **What does the Professor say about his daughters?**

The professor talks about his daughters, Sarala and Tarala. They are married and are leading a happy life. His sons-in-law are very nice boys.

3. **What does the Professor say about family planning?**

The professor proudly says that he has eleven grandchildren. He asks his student how many issues he has. The student

says three and the professor says that people are going in for family planning these days which is good.

4. What does the Professor say about his health?

He is proud that he is keeping good health because of his good habits in youth. He is sixty-nine years old now and hopes to live for a hundred years. He then asks the student about his health and he is happy to hear that he is keeping it up well.

5. Give an example of a mistake made by the Professor?

“Other also doing well, though not so well.

Every family must have black sheep.”

6. Who does the Professor call “black sheep”?

Two sons of the Professor are well-settled in life. But the third son is jobless. The Professor calls him the black sheep in the family.

7. What is the Professor’s view about values?

He says that the country is progressing. Old values are disappearing and in their place new values are coming up. These changes happen in leaps and bounds.

8. From which diseases is the Professor free? What reason does he assign for this?

The Professor is sixty-nine. He is free from diabetes, blood pressure and heart attack. This is because of the sound habits he had in his youth.

9. How does the Professor recall his student’s youth?

The student was very thin like a stick. But now he has become a man of weight and consequence.

10. Can you say that the Professor is courteous? How?

The Professor was happy to see his student. He asked his student to visit his humble residence if he happened to come that side by chance. This shows his courtesy.

COMPREHENSION

I. State whether the following sentences are true or false.

(Refer Text Book, "Medley - 3", Page No.44)

1. Nissim Ezekiel portrays a Professor of geography in the poem.
- True
2. The professor is not in good health now. - False
3. He describes his daughter as the black sheep in the family.
- False
4. The professor has nine grandchildren. - False
5. The professor talks about academics to his past student.
- False

II. Choose the correct alternative for each question.

1. Once I taught (taught/had taught) you geography.
2. All my children are (were/are) well settled in life.
3. Every family must (must/should) have black sheep.
4. We have to change with (with/according to) times.
5. Everything is (are/is) happening with leaps and bounds.

III. Fill in the blanks for the following.

1. I am retired, though my health is good.
2. All my children are well-settled in life.

3. Every family must have a black sheep.
4. These are days of family planning.
5. This is because of sound habits in youth.

IV. Explain with reference to the context.

1. *Other also doing well, though not so well.*

Context:

This passage is taken from Nissim Ezekiel's "*The Professor*". Here, the Professor talks about his third son.

Explanation:

The retired Geography Professor introduced himself to his student. He said that all his children were well-established in their life. One of his sons was a Bank Manager and another one was a Sales Manager. But his third son was not doing so well as the other two.

2. *How many issues you have? Three?*

Context:

This passage is taken from Nissim Ezekiel's "*The Professor*". Here, the Professor asked the student how many children he had.

Explanation:

The professor talked about his daughters. They were married and were leading a happy life. His sons-in-law were very nice. The professor proudly said that he had eleven grandchildren. He asked his student how many issues he had. The student said that he had three children.

3. *Our progress is progressing.*

Context:

This passage is taken from Nissim Ezekiel's "*The Professor*". Here, the Professor talks about development in the country.

Explanation:

The professor proudly said that he had eleven grandchildren. He asked his student how many issues he had. The student said three and the professor said that people were going in for family planning these days. He was not against it. It was necessary to change with times. He said that India was progressing.

4. *You were so thin, like stick***Context:**

This passage is taken from Nissim Ezekiel's "*The Professor*". The Professor told the student how he was as a student.

Explanation:

The Professor was proud that he was keeping good health because of his good habits in youth. He was sixty-nine years old now and hoped to live for a hundred years. He then recalled the student's school days and said that he was very thin like a stick.

5. *I am living just on opposite house's backside.***Context:**

This passage is taken from Nissim Ezekiel's "*The Professor*". The Professor said where he lived.

Explanation:

The Professor joked with his student that the latter was like a stick in his student days but now he had gained weight and become a 'man of weight and consequence.' Finally, the Professor asked him to pay a visit to his house. He said that he lived on the "opposite house's backside".

பேராசிரியர்

பேராசிரியர் ஷேத் ஒரு புகோளப் பேராசிரியர். அவர் அவரது பழைய மாணவர் ஒருவரிடம் பேசிக்கொண்டு இருக்கிறார். அந்த மாணவருக்கு ஷேத் புகோளம் கற்பித்தார். தான் ஓய்வு பெற்றுவிட்டதாகவும் ஆனால் தனது உடல் நிலை நன்றாக இருப்பதாகவும் கூறுகிறார். தனது மனைவி இறந்துவிட்ட செய்தியையும் கூறுகிறார்.

அவரது குழந்தைகள் நல்ல நிலைமையில் இருக்கின்றனர். ஒருமகன் வங்கியில் மேலாளராக இருக்கிறார். ஒருவர் விற்பனை மேலாளராக இருக்கிறார். இரண்டு மகன்களும் கார்கள் வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். அவரது மூன்றாவது மகன் மற்ற இரண்டு மகன்களைப் போல இல்லை. அவனைக் குடும்பத்தின் கருப்பு ஆடு என்று ஷேத் குறிப்பிடுகிறார். அவன் ஒழுக்கமின்றியும், தான் தோன்றித்தனமாக இருப்பதாகவும் அவர் கூறுகிறார். ஒவ்வொரு குடும்பத்திலும் இவ்வாறு ஒருவர் இருக்கின்றனர் என்கிறார்.

அவரது இரண்டு மகள்கள், சரளா மற்றும் தரளாவுக்கு திருமணம் ஆகிவிட்டது. தனது மருமகன்கள் நல்ல கணவர்கள் என்கிறார்.

ஷேத்திற்கு பதினொரு பேரப்பிள்ளைகள் உள்ளனர். பின்னர் தனது மாணவருக்கு எத்தனை பேரப்பிள்ளைகள் இருக்கின்றனர் என்று கேட்கிறார், மாணவர் “மூன்று ” என்று கூறியதும் அவரைக் கேலி செய்கிறார், இக்காலத்தில் மக்கள் குடும்பக் கட்டுப்பாட்டில் கவனம் செலுத்துகின்றனர். அவர் குடும்பக் கட்டுப்பாட்டிற்கு எதிரானவர் அல்ல, இது காலத்தால் கொண்டு வரப்பட்ட மாற்றம் என்கிறார்.

இன்று உலகத்தில் நிறை மாற்றங்கள் ஏற்பட்டுவிட்டன. இந்தியர்களும் இந்த மாற்றத்திற்கு உட்பட்டு விட்டனர். நாம் காலத்தோடு முன்னேறிக் கொண்டு இருக்கிறோம். பழைய எண்ணங்கள் மாறிப் புதிய எண்ணங்கள் தோன்றிவிட்டன. ஒவ்வொன்றும் மிக வேகமாக மாறிக்கொண்டு இருக்கிறது.

வயதாகிவிட்டதால் அதிகம் வெளியில் செல்வதில்லை என்று ஷேத் கூறுகிறார். தன்னால் அதிகம் நடக்கவோ அல்லது பயணம்

செய்யவோ முடியவில்லை என்கிறார். அவ்வப்பொழுது உடலில் ஏற்படும் வலிகளைத் தவிர தன் உடல் நலமாக இருப்பதாகக் கூறுகிறார். ரத்தக் கொதிப்பு, சர்க்கரை நோய், இருதயத் தாக்குதல் அவருக்கு இல்லை. தான் இளமைப் பருவத்தில் நல்ல பழக்கங்களைக் கைக் கொண்டிருந்ததால் தனது உடல் நலம் நன்றாக இருப்பதாகக் கூறுகிறார். பின் அவர் தனது மாணவரிடம் அவரது உடல் நலம் பற்றி விசாரிக்கிறார். அவர் நன்றாக இருப்பதைக் கேட்டு மகிழ்ச்சி அடைகிறார். ஷேத்திற்கு இப்பொழுது அறுபத்தொன்பது வயதாகிறது. தான் நூறு வயது வரை வாழ்வேன் என்ற நம்பிக்கை அவருக்கு இருக்கிறது.

அவரது மாணவன் படிக்கும் காலத்தில் குச்சி போல ஒல்லியாக இருந்ததை ஷேத் நினைவு கூறுகிறார். ஆனால் இப்பொழுது அந்த மாணவர் சிறிது குண்டாகிவிட்டார். நேரம் கிடைக்கும் பொழுது தன் வீட்டுக்கு வரும்படி அந்த மாணவரிடம் ஷேத் கூறுகிறார். சாலையின் எதிர்த்திசையின் பின்புறம் தனது வீடு எங்கே இருக்கிறது என்றும் ஷேத் தனது மாணவரிடம் கூறுகிறார்.