

## Chapter- 4

# The Enemy

## Concepts

- Nationalism
- Patriotism
- Humanism
- Fellow feeling
- Love
- Care
- Compassion
- Universal brotherhood
- Trust
- Commitment

## Characters

- **Dr.Sadao Hoki:** An accomplished Japanese Surgeon endowed with commendable skills in Surgery. He is educated and trained in the US.
- **Dr Sadao's Father:** A nationalist and true patriot....having a great concern for his son's education.
- **Hana:** Dr.Sadao's wife.
- **Tom:** An American prisoner of war, a soldier in the US Navy.
- **General Takima:** A sick Japanese General self-absorbed, in need of an operation, having great trust in Dr Sadao.

## A brief introduction to the Story.

- -The story " The Enemy" written by Pearl S.Buck is a heart-rending portrayal of the conflict between the human heart and mind.
- It deals with the conflict between man's humane feelings and the prejudices created by the different nations at war.
- It deals with the universal human values which must take precedence over narrow considerations like nationalism.

- The story is a brilliant depiction of the urge for the cultivation of virtues like love, peace, trust, compassion, fellow-feeling, humanism and universal brotherhood.
- The story opens with a flashback from Dr.Sadao's childhood, which immediately establishes his encouraging, serious and traditional father's Japanese patriotism and firm faith in Japan's capacity for greatness.

### ● **Introduction to the Author.**

- A leading American Writer and novelist knew by her Chinese name-Sai Zhenjhu
- Born on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1892 in Hillsboro, West Virginia and raised in Zhenjiang in eastern China.
- Educated by her mother and a Chinese tutor, later studied in the United States at the Cornell University
- As the daughter of missionaries, she spent most of her life in China.
- After returning to the United States, she continued to write prolifically and became a prominent advocate of the rights of women and minority groups and wrote widely on Asian cultures.
- Her novel 'The Good Earth' was the best selling fiction in the US.
- She won the Pulitzer Prize in 1932.
- In 1938 she was awarded the Nobel prize in literature.
- She claims to be the first American woman to win the Nobel prize for Literature.

### **Steps to comprehensive explanations**

#### a) **Dr.Sadao's Exploring the American Prisoner of War Washed Ashore**

- **Dr Sadao Hoki's** house was built on a spot of the Japanese coast..... Then they saw him fall on his face and lie there.
- **Sadao Hoki**, a renowned Japanese Surgeon and accomplished scientist live in a house on the Japanese coast.
- The house is of low height, made of stone, set upon a rocky beach having a boundary line made with pine trees.

- Sadao has been very familiar with this place since his childhood.
- Sadao is greatly influenced by his serious and conventional father who always shares his mature experience and inculcates into his mind the spirit of patriotism

**b) Dr.Sadao – a Nationalist and Patriot**

- Sadao is greatly inspired by his traditional father, a nationalist and great patriot.
- Sadao goes to America for pursuing his higher studies, returns to Japan, having acquired great knowledge and skills in surgery.
- It is a wartime situation as Japan and America are hostile to each other. In 1941, when Japan attacks Pearl Harbour, war breaks out between the two countries.
- Rebellious and revengeful Japanese are ready to kill the Americans if found on their soil.
- Dr.Sadao is the only doctor to stay in Japan to attend the sick old Japanese General who trusts none except him.

**c) Dr.Sadao's Fascination with Nature...His Meeting with Hana.**

- With the cold sea- waves, the foggy night, Sadao sees the boundary of a nearby island becomes invisible because of snow as it gets covered in the mist, he wishes to go back to his house, to his wife and two children.
- Sadao recalls his accidental meeting with Hana in America and his ensuring her identity and nationality before deciding to marry her.
- Sadao's marriage is solemnised in the traditional Japanese way.
- A happy couple, they frequently visit the beach and enjoy the scenic beauty of the seaside.
- While enjoying the fascinating view of the sea from the verandah, they see something black coming out of the mist.
- They see the outline of a man's body. He is found staggering.
- Upon seeing the strange figure, Hana wants to know who he is.
- Both Sadao and Hana start examining the stranger's details from his appearance.

**d) The Wounded White Man...the Enemy of the Japanese**

- “A fisherman perhaps,” Sadao said,..... Don’t try to save him! What if he should live?”
- Dr.Sadao thinks the stranger to be a fisherman washed ashore from his boat.
- As a humanitarian gesture, feeling for the helpless man, Sadao runs to help him.
- Hana, the dedicated wife, follows her husband.
- The surf beyond the beach is spiked with rocks.
- Having found the stranger seriously hurt and wounded, Sadao feels for him and is ready to render him the service as a gesture of humanity and as a doctor.
- Having examined the stranger carefully, the Japanese couple realises that the victim was a white man, an American prisoner of war, their enemy.
- They discover that the white man is an escaped prisoner of war, a sailor from the information the police or the Japanese army about it, which would eventually kill the man.
- Hana is concerned that the man is seriously injured

**e) PATRIOTISM VS HUMANISM**

- Fuelled by the spirit of patriotism, Sadao thinks of putting the wounded man back into the sea.
- The man’s piteous plight arouses a feeling of frank sympathy in the mind of Dr Sadao.....an epitome of humanity.
- They despise the thought of rescuing the white man, their enemy
- They are not able to gather the courage to put the man into the sea.
- A doctor and a compassionate human, Dr Sadao feels for the dying man and reasons that the man is handed over to the police after his recovery.
- Hana asks Sadao to bring the wounded man to their house if he can’t throw him into the sea.

**f) Dr.Sadao...an embodiment of Humanity**

- Sadao expresses his concern about their servants' grievance and objection if they shelter the white man.
- After a lot of speculation, the doctor thinks of treating the dying man on humanitarian grounds before deciding his fate.
- They take the man into their house because the man requires immediate medical attention.
- They take him to an empty bedroom that had not been used since Sadao's father's death.

#### **g) Conflict Between Heart and Mind**

- Hana hesitates Sadao's urge for washing the man as he is very dirty.
- Besides, she considers the white man to be their enemy.
- With a feeling of disgust, she doesn't want Sadao to touch the man.
- She thinks of asking Yumi, her maidservant, to wash the wounded man.
- Agreeing with Hana to take help of Yumi in washing the white man, Sadao sees and examines the man's pale face and ensures his being alive.
- Hana screams with fear and asks Sadao not to save the man stating that she fears that if he survives, they will be into great danger.

#### **h) The Servants' Response to Dr.Sadao and Hana's Act of Humanity.**

"What if he should die?" Sadao replied .... she was in trouble.

#### Text Analysis:-

- Dr.Sadao questions the implication of the situation if the man dies.
- The man seems to be twenty-five years of age...looks youthful and energetic.
- Pondering over the situation, Sadao steps forward to do something, irrespective of the consequence.
- Hana considers the stranger to be their enemy ...a threat to them.
- They decide to inform their servants about the matter.

**i) The Servants' Concern ...Their Accusing Dr.Sadao of Betrayal and Deception**

- They think of telling them about their idea of handing the man over to the police after his recovery.
- The servants feel scared after hearing their master's words regarding the injured man.
- The servants despise the idea of their master of saving their enemy.
- The servants feel that if Dr Sadao heals the wounds given by the gun and the sea, then the gun (the Japanese Army )and the sea (the country of Japan )would treat them as enemies and take revenge.
- The servants strongly protest their master's idea of serving their enemy.
- Hana criticises the servants' hesitation in serving the wounded man.

She tells them that they must obey their master's orders.

**j) Hana's Humanitarian Gesture...**

- She tries to persuade them and change their mindset by assuring them that they are to hand the man over to the police after bringing him back to sense.
- Disappointed, the servants tell them that they don't have any concern for it and they don't know their master's plans.
- Infuriated, helpless Hana attempts at attending the stranger and steps forward to clean his wounds which reveals her noble humanitarian nature.
- Dr.Sadao comes here with his surgeon's emergency bag ready to operate upon the man
- Kind, caring and compassionate Hana unhesitatingly stands by her husband's side to support him in serving their purpose.

**k) Dr.Sadao's only Concern-Saving Lives...Humanism first...Patriotism next.**

- With utmost care and sincere efforts, the doctor attends upon the wounded man not bothering about his identity, which reveals his abiding by the principle of medical ethics and sense of being humane.
- Sadao needs Hana's help in operating upon the man.
- Hana's stress and lack of patience irritate Sadao, still, he doesn't give up hope which shows his firm determination, his humanitarian gesture, sheer will-power and professional commitment.
- An embodiment of humanity, Dr.Sadao concentrates on his work to help the dying man

regain sense which reveals his surgical expertise and noble nature.

- Sadao's insisting his wife Hana on helping him in the operation incorporates in her the power of trust and will to undertake risk.
- Dr.Sadao becomes merciless and works fast without paying any heed to the pain that the man feels.
- Hana urges for the administration of an anaesthetic to the man, an idea that indicates her optimistic feel and preparedness to work with her husband for a greater cause.
- Hana's feelings of grief and sympathy for the dying man ....their enemy enlivens Sadao's concern and desire for serving the cause of humanity.

#### **l) Hana's Optimism and Concern for the Wounded Man....their Enemy**

- Dr.Sadao becomes merciless and works fast without paying any heed to the pain that the man feels.
- Hana urges for the administration of an anaesthetic to the man, an idea that indicates her optimistic feel and preparedness to work with her husband for a greater cause.
- Hana's feelings of grief and sympathy for the dying man ....their enemy enlivens Sadao's concern and desire for serving the cause of humanity.
- She wonders about the accuracy of the stories she has heard on themes of inhumanity, violence, hatred , incessant suffering, torture meted out to the prisoners.
- She recalls an officer of the Japanese army –General Takima –a domineering husband being very cruel to his wife.
- She thinks that if a man could be cruel to his wife, then he could also be cruel to the prisoners in his captivity.
- Hana's exploring the man with scars and ceaseless bleeding arouses a feeling of frank sympathy in her mind.

#### **m) Dr.Sadao's Incorporating in the Wounded American Soldier the Power of Trust and Hope**

- A man of virtues, Dr.Sadao acts as a trusted friend to the dying man who reciprocates with him unhesitatingly.
- Dr.Sadao's speaking to the man during the performance of the operation and his addressing him as a friend reflects his humaneness and noble nature.
- By dint of his noble nature and friendly talk with the wounded man, the doctor can arouse in him a feeling of hope and optimism.

- The wounded man's speaking a few words in English to the doctor about his feeling of pain and his sustaining of serious injuries is a clear reflection of his indomitable courage.
- The Japanese doctor forgets his nationalistic feelings and spirit of patriotism that he has inherited from his traditional and patriotic father.

#### **n) The narrow-mindedness of the Servants and their Hostility towards their Masters.**

"Sadao, Yumi tells me....."Somehow I must get rid of him."

##### Text Analysis:-

- Hana tells Sadao about their servants' decision of leaving them if the American soldier stays with them.
- She also informs him about the doubtful and narrow-minded servants' having a special feeling for the Americans as the couple has spent many years in America.
- The servants thus accuse a couple of anti-nationals and betrayers of their beloved nation. Though the servants appear polite, their hostility towards their masters is reflected '

#### **o) The Servants' Concern for Their Masters' Children**

- The servants express their deep concern for their Masters' innocent children.
- They resent their master's decision to help the American soldier.
- On knowing their servants' negative feelings toward them, Dr.Sadao tries to clarify them all the Americans are their enemies.
- The tenacious servants leave their masters' which shows their indifference them in this time of crisis.
- They think that when the children grow up, they will be labelled as children of a traitor.
- Hana considers their servants' feelings just but feels for the wounded man from humanitarian grounds.

**p) "Of course," the General said weakly,.....I wonder why I could not kill him?"."**

##### Text Analysis:-

- Sadao narrates the entire story to the general.
- *The General feels weak and emotional as he is reminded of the problems he had faced throughout his life while fulfilling his duties and responsibilities in various wars won by Japan.*
- *Feeling disappointed, the General says that the happening of the injured man reaching*



*his house is an unfortunate one.*

#### **q) Dr.Sadao's Meeting With the General**

- The General says that the best solution to the problem is to kill the man quietly, not by Dr.Sadao, by his hired killers /private assassins.
- Dr.Sadao thinks the General's plan be the best for his family.
- After their meeting, Sadao spends three restless nights waiting for the assassins.
- When finally the assassins don't appear, the torture for the doctor becomes unbearable, as a result, he plans to get rid of the enemy.

#### **r) Dr.Sadao's Helping the Enemy**

- Dr.Sadao tells Tom –the American about his escape plan.
- He warns him that he must escape as the news of his presence is not hidden any more.
- He arranges a boat, food, drinking water and clothing for the young man and also fetches him his flashlight to enable him to survive on the sea and wait till he finds a Korean ship to board.
- Sadao also briefs him about the safety measures for his self-defence.
- Sadao's act of dressing the American up to make him look like a Japanese reveals his noble humanitarian feel.
- The story reflects the idea that humanity transcends all human barriers through the character of Dr.Sadao who proves to be more humanist than being a nationalist and patriot.

### **Drilling of words and Linguistic expressions:**

- Outline ---mark on the outer edge
- Creeping---moving slowly
- Stepping stone---something that helps in the success
- Yonder---over there
- Render ---make / provide /result into
- Mist--- haze/fog/smog

- Wreathing---encircling/covering/surrounding
- Haori---jacket of Japanese style
- Kimono---fashionable Japanese dress
- Breaker –a heavy sea wave that breaks into white foam
- Spike – cover with sharp points
- Tend-look after
- Beachcombers-people who earn their bread by searching beaches for valuables and selling them
- Stanch- check or stop the flowing of
- Pallor-an unhealthy or pale appearance
- Nursery- a room in a house for special use of young children
- Resistance – refusal
- Rugs– thick woollen carpets
- Blond- light-coloured
- Ebbing –gradually decreasing
- Tokonoma- a recess or an alcove in a Japanese home for displaying a flower arrangement or pictures.
- Alcove- a recess in the wall of a room
- Superficial- existing or occurring on the surface
- Retching- vomiting
- Flickers – fleeting
- Anatomy- a study on the body structure of humans
- Cardinal- serious
- Incisions- cuts
- Guts-intestines
- Hypodermic- a syringe for injection
- Porcelain –a white translucent ceramic

- Bitter—feeling or showing hurt or pain
- dragged on— was managed with difficulty or effort
- Pinching —breaking of, removing
- Wistaria vine—a climbing shrub of the pea family
- Condemned---blamed
- Assuage—lesson, make less intense
- Brusquely—bluntly, roughly
- Execution—the act of killing or carrying out a death sentence against someone
- Assassins-persons who murder an important person for political reason
- Absolute state—a form of government which has absolute or unrestricted power
- Gosh-an expression of surprise
- Stubby—with short rough growth
- Shaggy—having long, thick unkempt hair
- Refrain— repeated idea or complaint
- Eaves-the part of a roof that meets or overhangs the walls of a building
- Pawnshop—cheap shop
- Flashlight-a small portable lamp or torch, usually powered by batteries
- Dereliction- neglect
- Slatternly – dirty and untidy

### **Related Question from the potion taught:**

- Who was Dr Sadao? Where was his house?
- Was Dr Sadao to be arrested on the charge of harbouring an enemy in their house?
- What was the dream of Sadao’s father about his son?
- Why was dr? Sao not sent to the battlefield?
- What role did the American Professor do to bring Hana and Dr Sadao together?
- Why had Hana to wash the wounded man himself?

## Lesson continuation with comprehensive explanations:

- The soldier was finally identified to be an American, Japan's enemy.
- His body was severely wounded.
- He was taken into the house of Dr Sadao.
- Servants oppose the Doctors' initiative.
- The gardener opposes Dr.'s decision saying that Had it been his father, he won't have allowed the American to enter the house.
- Soldier's body was dirty; so washing the body was needed, for which Yumi was ordered; she refused.

**THE END**