

- A Baker from Goa
- Coorg
- Tea from Assam

A Baker from Goa

Summary: This chapter by Lucio Rodrigues highlights the influence of Portuguese culture in Goa, especially through the tradition of baking bread. The baker was an essential figure in the village, visiting homes twice daily and providing sweet bread called *bol*, which was a staple in celebrations like marriages. The baker's attire and the importance of his profession are described, showing how baking was a respected and profitable trade. The narrative reflects the close-knit community and the cultural heritage preserved through these customs.

Key Elements

- **Theme:** Cultural heritage and community life in Goa.
- **Characters:** The baker, the villagers, the narrator's family.
- **Literary Devices:** Imagery (the jingling bamboo), symbolism (bread as a cultural symbol), and characterization (the baker's role).

Textual Evidence

"The jingling sound of the bamboo woke them from sleep." This imagery brings the baker's morning visits to life.

"The marriage gifts were meaningless without *bol*." This shows the cultural importance of the bread.

Solved Example

Q: How does the baker symbolize Goan culture in the story?

A: The baker represents the Portuguese influence in Goa through his traditional bread-making. His daily visits and the community's reliance on his bread for celebrations highlight the preservation of cultural identity.

Practice Set

Level 1 – Easy

- What is *bol*?
- Describe the baker's attire.

Level 2 – Moderate

- Explain the significance of the baker's visits to the village.
- How does the story reflect the importance of tradition in Goan society?

Level 3 – Challenging

- Analyze how the baker's profession contributes to the community's prosperity and happiness.
- Discuss the role of cultural heritage as depicted through the baker's story.

Answer Key

- **Bol:** A sweet bread popular in Goa.
- **Baker's attire:** A single-piece long frock called 'Kabai' or half pants below the knees.
- **Significance of visits:** The baker's visits were essential for daily life and celebrations, symbolizing community bonding.
- **Tradition's importance:** The story shows how customs like baking bread are integral to social and cultural identity.
- **Profession's contribution:** Baking was profitable, ensuring the baker's family never starved, reflecting economic and social stability.
- **Cultural heritage role:** The baker's story preserves Portuguese influence and local traditions, emphasizing respect for heritage.

Quick Reference

- **Bol:** Sweet bread.
- **Kabai:** Traditional baker's dress.
- **Starved:** Extremely hungry.

Glossary

- **Portuguese:** People from Portugal, who influenced Goan culture.
- **Furnace:** Oven used for baking bread.
- **Prosperous:** Successful and wealthy.

Coorg

Summary: Lokesh Abrol's chapter describes Coorg, a picturesque district in Karnataka known for its evergreen forests, spices, and coffee plantations. The people of Coorg have unique customs, possibly descended from Greek or Arabic origins. The chapter highlights their hospitality, bravery, and distinctive traditions, including the right to carry firearms without a license. Coorg is rich in wildlife and adventure activities, with notable places like the Brahmagiri hills and Nisargadhama island. It also hosts India's largest settlement of Buddhist monks in Bylakuppe.

Key Elements

- **Theme:** Natural beauty, cultural diversity, and bravery.
- **Characters:** The Coorg people, General Cariappa.
- **Literary Devices:** Descriptive imagery, historical allusion, and symbolism.

Textual Evidence

"Coorg is a heavenly place which lies midway between Mysore and Mangalore." This sets the scenic tone.

"The Kodavus are the only people in India to carry firearms without a licence." This highlights their unique tradition.

Solved Example

Q: What makes Coorg unique according to the chapter?

A: Coorg is unique for its natural beauty, distinct cultural heritage possibly linked to Greek or Arabic descent, the bravery of its people, and special traditions like carrying firearms legally.

Practice Set

Level 1 – Easy

- Where is Coorg located?
- Name two natural features of Coorg.

Level 2 – Moderate

- Describe the cultural background of Coorg people.
- What are some adventure activities mentioned in the chapter?

Level 3 – Challenging

- Discuss the significance of General Cariappa in Coorg's history.
- Analyze how Coorg's natural environment influences its culture and lifestyle.

Answer Key

- **Location:** Between Mysore and Mangalore in Karnataka.
- **Natural features:** Evergreen forests, coffee plantations.
- **Cultural background:** Possibly Greek or Arabic descent with unique customs.
- **Adventure activities:** River rafting, canoeing, rappelling, rock climbing.
- **General Cariappa:** First Indian Army Chief, symbolizing Coorg's bravery.
- **Environment's influence:** The rich flora and fauna support a lifestyle of hospitality, adventure, and cultural preservation.

Quick Reference

- **Kodavus:** Indigenous people of Coorg.
- **Bylakuppe:** Largest Buddhist settlement in India.
- **Brahmagiri hills:** Popular trekking spot.

Glossary

- **Evergreen:** Plants that retain green leaves throughout the year.
- **Rappelling:** Descending a rock face using a rope.
- **Settlement:** A community where people live.

Tea from Assam

Summary: Arup Kumar Datta's chapter narrates the story of tea from Assam through the journey of two boys, Rajvir and Pranjol. It explores tea's history, legends, and cultural

significance. The story describes the vast tea plantations of Assam and the role of tea in the global economy. It also touches on the origins of tea, including Chinese and Indian legends, and the spread of tea to Europe in the sixteenth century.

Key Elements

- **Theme:** History and cultural importance of tea.
- **Characters:** Rajvir and Pranjol.
- **Literary Devices:** Narrative storytelling, historical allusion, and descriptive imagery.

Textual Evidence

"Over 8,00,000,000 cups of tea are drunk every day throughout the world." This emphasizes tea's global popularity.

"The train passes through green hills with a sea of tea bushes as far as can be seen." This imagery paints the vastness of tea plantations.

Solved Example

Q: What legends about tea are mentioned in the chapter?

A: One legend says a Chinese emperor discovered tea by chance in 2700 BC. Another tells of ten tea plants growing from the eyelids of Bodhidharma, a Buddhist ascetic.

Practice Set

Level 1 – Easy

- Who are the two boys in the story?
- Where is the tea estate located?

Level 2 – Moderate

- Explain the significance of tea in Assam's economy.
- Describe the legends associated with the origin of tea.

Level 3 – Challenging

- Analyze how the chapter connects tea's history with its cultural importance globally.
- Discuss the role of tea plantations in shaping Assam's landscape and society.

Answer Key

- **Characters:** Rajvir and Pranjol.
- **Location:** Dhekiabari Tea Estate in Assam.
- **Economic significance:** Tea is a major economic product for Assam, supporting many livelihoods.
- **Legends:** Chinese emperor's discovery and Bodhidharma's eyelids story.
- **History and culture:** The chapter links tea's ancient origins to its worldwide cultural role.
- **Plantations' role:** They define Assam's geography and economy, influencing social life.

Quick Reference

- **Chai:** Tea in Chinese.
- **Chini:** Sugar in Chinese.
- **Bodhidharma:** Buddhist ascetic linked to tea legend.

Glossary

- **Plantation:** Large farm where crops like tea are grown.
- **Ascetic:** Person who practices severe self-discipline.

- **Legend:** Traditional story sometimes based on historical events.

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