NCERT Solutions for Class 11 English chapter 2 A Pair of Mustachios

Q.1: What do you understand of the natures of Ramanand and Azam Khan from the episode described?

Ans : Ramanand and Azam Khan are the key characters between whom the conversation is taking place. Ramanand is the grocer and the moneylender who cleverly knows how to gain the best benefit in a given situation. He increases the prices of the commodity in response to the provoking. For his most important element is his job than his pride. Azam Khan is the poor victim that lives his life in the false pride. He creates a whole issue out of the topic of keeping the moustaches down. His short-tempered nature is something that will teach him the lesson.

Q.2: Identify instances in the story that show the business acumen of Ramanand.

Ans : Ramanand is a wise shopkeeper who has the wit to remark a line between what is right and what is wrong. He knows how to tackle tricky situations and gets the best out of it. It is shown in the story itself that he agrees to lower his moustaches when asked for by Azam Khan. But this instance also had a hidden motive that he did so to increase the acquisition of property. He makes a wise judgement of the factors pertaining to get the best out of a scenario. His decision-making skills are remarkable to use to benefit himself.

Q.3: Both Ramanand and Azam Khan seem to have very fixed views. How does Ramanand score over Azam Khan towards the end of the story?

Ans : It is true that both Ramanand and Azam Khan had very fixed views which were a result of the social milieu that made the categorization in the society on the basis of the moustaches. Both the parties have a fixed set of ideology that has been marked in their minds because of the social customs. Ramanand belonged to a goat class however Azam Khan belonged to a tiger class.

Ramanand scored over Azam Khan in the way that he manages to turn his moustache upwards, which in turn increases the property price. Thus, he is the one who actually wins the situation.

Q.4: The episode has been narrated in a light vein. What social mores does the author seem to ridicule?

Ans : As told at the beginning of the story that there is a division in the society on the basis of moustaches, a certain upwards moustaches represents the upper class. The author has used this reference to ridicule the ideology of the people that live in false pride just because of the fact of being associated with a higher class. Their belonging to a higher class does not mark their wit as they are smartly fooled by the so-called lower class people. So we can clearly see who is the real winner in this case. Thus the author laughs at the ideology of such people who make their trap themselves.

Q.5: What do you think are the reasons for the references made to the English people and the British monarchy?

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Ans : It is clearly known fact that Indians were ruled by the Britishers for a long time. Also, it is a well-known fact that Indians take pride in the divisions of social classes and there is a significant difference between the various classes. A prominent difference in treatment is also observed. But the sad part is that these social divisions are a major part of our nation's history. Thus the writer makes references to the English people and British monarchy that the same way when we were under the British rule, that is compared to the social disparities, Indian's feel pride in being slaves of such conditions. The clear example is shown in the fact that the babus under British rule were highly honoured.

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