

11. An Old Woman

I. Answer the following in a word, a phrase or a sentence each :

1. In the poem 'An Old Woman', 'You' refers to _____. (C)
 - a. the old woman.
 - b. any pilgrim whom the old woman meets.
 - c. Khandoba.
2. What does the old woman offer to do? (K)
3. Where does the old woman want to take the speaker?(K)
4. The old woman is _____. (C)
 - a. a beggar.
 - b. a person with self-respect.
 - c. a guide appointed by the government.
5. The old woman represents _____ (C)
 - a) inhuman social negligence.
 - b) Greediness.
 - c) happiness.
6. What does the old woman demand for her service? (K)
7. The old woman sticks to the speaker like a _____.(K)
8. The old woman's eyes are compared to _____. (K)
9. What does the phrase 'bullet holes' stand for? (C)
10. 'You want to end the farce.' Here, "farce" stands for (C)
 - a. a play that was enacted there.
 - b. the speaker.
 - c. the old woman pestering the speaker.
11. Who is referred to as a 'shatterproof crone' in the poem? (K)
12. Name the shrine mentioned in the poem. (K)

II. Answer the following in a paragraph of 80-100 words each:

1. How is the plight of the old woman depicted in the poem? (C)
2. How does the speaker's attitude undergo a change? (E)

III. Answer the following in about 200 words:

1. "The old woman dwarfs the self-esteem of the speaker and makes him feel that he is nothing more than a small change in her hand." comment.(A)
2. The speaker's perception of the old woman changes from 'burr' to a 'shatterproof crone' in the poem "The Old Woman". Elaborate. (A)
3. 'The miserable plight of the old woman is a comment on the merciless society.' Examine. (A)
4. Why does the speaker's scorn change to respect for the old woman towards the end of the poem?(A)