

**(Honeydew)**  
**Chapter 4 : Bepin Choudhury's Lapse of Memory**

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**Comprehension Check (Page No. 58)**

**Question 1:**

Why did the man stare at Bepin Babu in disbelief?

**Answer 1:**

The man stared at Bepin Babu in disbelief because Bepin Babu did not identify him despite the fact that he was sure that he knew him and had met him in Ranchi.

**Question 2:**

Where did Bepin Babu say he went in October '58?

**Answer 2:**

Bepin Babu said that he had spent the Puja holidays in October '58 with a friend in Kanpur.

**Question 3:**

Mention any three (or more) things that Parimal Ghose knew about Bepin Babu.

**Answer 3:**

Parimal Ghose knew the following things about Bepin Babu:

- ♦ That he had slipped near Hudroo falls and injured his leg.
- ♦ That he had stayed in a bungalow because he favoured food made by a bawarchi /cook
- ♦ That his wife was no more. She had died 10 years ago.

**Comprehension Check (Page No. 61)**

**Question 1:**

Why did Bepin Babu worry about what Parimal Ghose had said?

**Answer 1:**

Bepin Babu was constantly worried about what Parimal Ghose had said because he had been able to tell him many personal facts about him. He was aware of the bag which had books, his wife's death and his brother's mental illness. Knowing that Parimal Ghose knew so much about him, he couldn't say with assurance that he was making a mistake about the Ranchi trip.

**Question 2:**

How did he try to decide who was right – his memory or Parimal Ghose?

**Answer 2:**

He tried to decide whether his memory was right or Parimal Ghose by looking at his right knee which Parimal claimed had a cut. There was surely a mark of an old cut on his right knee. But still, he was not able to decide if the cut was because he had fallen in Ranchi or due to some



other happening when he was a child. Then, he thought of asking Dinesh Mukherjee, who as per Parimal Ghose was with him in Ranchi. He thought that asking him would make the things clear and put an end to this doubt.

### **Question 3:**

Why did Bepin Babu hesitate to visit Mr Mukerji? Why did he finally decide to phone him?

#### **Answer 3:**

Bepin Babu was hesitant to visit Mr Dinesh Mukerji because he was afraid of the heartless behaviour and sarcastic comments he would have to face on asking him. He thought if the entire story about Ranchi would be false, then Mr Mukerji would think that he was insane. Being continuously disturbed by the event at the bookshop and having no other source to verify whatever Primal Ghose had spoken, he finally decided to talk to Mr Mukerji. However, he decided to call him up rather than asking face to face as he didn't want to show his discomfort.

### **Question 4:**

What did Mr Mukerji say? Did it comfort Bepin Babu, or add to his worries?

#### **Answer 4:**

Mr. Mukerji checked his diary and told him that they had visited Ranchi in October '58. This further added to his worries as he could not make out how he could have forgotten about the trip.

## **Comprehension Check (Page No. 64)**

### **Question 1:**

Who was Chunilal? What did he want from Bepin Babu?

#### **Answer 1:**

Chunilal was his old school friend. He had been having a tough time of late and wanted to see Bepin Babu for a job.

### **Question 2:**

Why was Dr Chanda puzzled? What was unusual about Bepin Babu's loss of memory?

#### **Answer 2:**

Dr Chanda was puzzled because he had never come across such a case like that of Bepin Babu's. It was out of his league.

The odd thing about Bepin Babu's case was that he remembered the things that had happened in the past barring one particular incident. Dr Chanda said that he must have been to Ranchi but for some unknown reason, the entire incident had got wiped out of his memory.



## Comprehension Check (Page No. 66)

### Question 1:

Had Bepin Babu really lost his memory and forgotten all about a trip to Ranchi?

#### Answer 1:

No, Bepin Babu had actually not lost his memory but he had forgotten everything about the Ranchi trip. It was a trick played by Chunilal.

### Question 2:

Why do you think Chunilal did what he did? Chunilal says he has no money; what is it that he does have?

#### Answer 2:

Chunilal did all this because Bepin Babu had not helped him at that time when he was in need and had no money. He was badly in need of a job. He had approached Bepin Babu for help but he did not do anything for him. So just to punish him and to make him realise this, he rekindled unforgettable memory of whatever had happened near Hudroo. Chunilal was a good writer with very rich thoughts. That is what he thought would help him to come over his bad phase of life.

## Working with Text

### Question 1:

The author describes Bepin Babu as a serious and hardworking man. What evidence can you find in the story to support this?

#### Answer 1:

The author has described Bepin Babu as a serious and hardworking man. The evidences which support this statement are that he worked daily in his office which was a big firm. He was sincere in his work and was dependable worker. He had been with this firm for twenty-five years. He had a good standing for being a diligent, hard-working worker.

### Question 2:

Why did Bepin Babu change his mind about meeting Chunilal? What was the result of this meeting?

#### Answer 2:

Bepin Babu changed his mind about meeting Chunilal because he felt that there was a possibility that Chunilal would remember something about the Ranchi trip. When Chunilal confirmed that Bepin Babu had visited Ranchi, Bepin Babu decided to consult a professional doctor.



### Question 3:

Bepin Babu lost consciousness at Hudroo Falls. What do you think was the reason for this?

#### Answer 3:

Bepin Babu had lost consciousness at Hudroo Falls due to the fall. He had broken his hip because of this accident.

### Question 4:

How do you think Bepin Babu reacted when he found out that Chunilal had tricked him?

#### Answer 4:

When Bepin Babe would have realized that Chunilal had tricked him, he would have felt bad and might have been filled with guilt for his unsympathetic conduct towards his old friend when he needed his help the most. He would have understood that he had certainly been a victim of absent-mindedness as he had forgotten the meaning of true friendship in the time of need.

## Working with Language

### Question 1:

Fill in the blanks below using 'had to' / 'have to' / 'has to'.

- (i) I \_\_\_\_\_ cut my hair every month.
- (ii) We \_\_\_\_\_ go for swimming lessons last year.
- (iii) She \_\_\_\_\_ tell the principal the truth.
- (iv) They \_\_\_\_\_ take the baby to the doctor.
- (v) We \_\_\_\_\_ complain to the police about the noise.
- (vi) Romit \_\_\_\_\_ finish his homework before he could come out to play.
- (vii) I \_\_\_\_\_ repair my cycle yesterday.

#### Answer 1:

- (i) I **have to** cut my hair every month.
- (ii) We **had to** go for swimming lessons last year.
- (iii) She **has to** tell the principal the truth.
- (iv) They **had to** take the baby to the doctor.
- (v) We **have to** complain to the police about the noise.
- (vi) Romit **had to** finish his homework before he could come out to play.
- (vii) I **had to** repair my cycle yesterday.



### Question 3:

Study the sentences in the columns below.

#### Column A

I saw this movie yesterday.

Bepin Babu worked here for a week last year.

Chunilal wrote to a publisher last week.

I visited Ranchi once, long ago.

#### Column B

I have seen this movie already.

Bepin Babu has worked here since 2003.

Chunilal has written to a publisher.

I have visited Ranchi once before.

Compare the sentences in the two columns, especially the verb forms.

The following about each pair of sentences.

- (i) Which column tells us the Bepin Babu is still working at the same the place?
- (ii) Which column suggests that Chunilal is now waiting for a reply from the publisher?
- (iii) Which column suggests that the person still remembers the movie he saw?
- (iv) Which column suggests that the experience of visiting Ranchi is still fresh in the speaker's mind?

#### Answer 3:

- (i) Column B      (ii) Column A      (iii) Column B      (iv) Column B

### Question 4:

Given below are jumbled sentences. Working in groups, rearrange the words in each sentence to form correct sentences.

You will find that each sentence contains an idiomatic expression that you have come across in the lesson. Underline the idiom and write down its meaning. Then use your dictionary to check the meaning.

- (i) Stop/and tell me/beating about/what you want/the bush

#### Answer:

Stop beating about the bush and tell me what you want.

Idiom: beating about the bush – avoiding the target, not coming directly to the point

- (ii) don't pay/if you/attention/you might/the wrong train/to the announcement/board

#### Answer:

If you don't pay attention to the announcement, you might board the wrong train.

Idiom: pay attention – listen carefully



(iii) The village/tried/the crime/on the young woman/to pin

**Answer:**

The villagers tried to pin the crime on the young woman.

Idiom: pin the crime – place the accountability of the crime

(iv) Bepin Babu/orders to/telling people/under/loved/doctor's/eat early/that he was

**Answer:**

Bepin Babu loved telling people that he was under doctor's orders to eat early.

Idiom: under doctor's orders – in complete necessity

(v) the student/The teacher/his eyebrows/when/said that/all their lessons/raised/they had revised

**Answer:**

The teacher raised his eyebrows when the students said that they had revised all their lessons.

Idiom: raised his eyebrows – expressed doubt/surprise

## Poem- The Last Bargain

### Working with Poem

#### Question 1:

Who is the speaker in the poem?

**Answer 1:**

The speaker in the poem is a man who is looking for work.

#### Question 2:

“The king, sword in hand” suggests

(i) wealth                      (ii) power                      (iii) more power than wealth

Mark the appropriate item in the context of stanza 1.

**Answer 2:**

(ii) power

#### Question 3:

The old man offered the speaker a lot of money. Why did he turn down the offer?

**Answer 3:**

The old man offered the speaker a lot of money. However, he turned it down because he realised that money cannot give him what he actually wishes. He had not till then realised that what he actually wanted was happiness and not just money. When the old man was counting



the gold coins, he realised that once the money would end or the work the old man wanted to give him would be over, then he would again be without any work. More than that, he would be bound in this deal. It did not give him a feeling of satisfaction and therefore, he turned it down.

**Question 4:**

Find in the poem, lines that match the following. Read both one after another.

- (i) I have nothing to give you  
Except goodwill and cheer.
- (ii) Her happiness was no more  
Than sorrow in disguise.
- (iii) The king's might was not worth much.

**Answer 4:**

- (i) 'I hire you with nothing.'
- (ii) 'Her smile paled and melted into tears'.
- (iii) 'But his power counted for naught'.

**Question 5:**

How did the speaker feel after talking to the child on the beach?

**Answer 5:**

After talking to the child on the beach the speaker felt extremely happy, satisfied and contented.