

ENGLISH

TOPIC: LAGOON

1. Full name: Jozef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski. A Polish writer.
2. Written in 1896 and published in 1897 in 'The Cornhill Magazine.' Like 'Almayer's Folly' it has the exotic Malayan setting.
3. Lagoon: A stretch of salt water separated from the sea by low sandbank or coral reef. Symbolizes the isolated life Arsat lives with Diamelen.
4. The word lagoon comes from *laguna*, a Spanish word.
5. White man: No clear information about the white man has been given. He was possibly some white European who had connection with some Malayan natives like Arsat. In the story he also appears in the name Tuan. Conrad has presented him as a spectator of the tragedy of Arsat.
6. "We will pass the night in Arsat's clearing."- The White man says this to the Malay. The white man proposed to spend the night at Arsat's hut because the day was coming to an end. Moreover, he was closely acquainted with him and had stayed at his place earlier.
7. 'The Malay only grunted.'- The Malay was a native. He was the steersman of the white man's boat. He grunted because he did not like the idea of passing the night at Arsat's clearing. This is because the place was believed to be haunted by spirits and it was a lonely and dark place surrounded by jungles and deep sea.
8. The polers disliked Arsat because he was a foreigner who came and settled from elsewhere to this lagoon. Secondly he repaired and lived in a house

that had been abandoned as haunted. They being superstitious thought that Arsat might be in league with evil spirits.

9. Description of Arsat: young man, powerful, broad chest, muscular arms. Wore nothing but his sarong. His head was bare. Eyes were big and soft.

10. Juragan means steersman, the head of the crew. A Malay term.

11. The juragan said, "We will cook in the sampan(boat), and sleep on the water." This is because they disliked Arsat.

12. The first question that Arsat asked the white man was whether he had any medicine with him. In a surprised tone the white man replied that he had none. He then wanted to know if there was any illness in the house.

13. Diamelen, Arsat's beloved and the maidservant of the ruler had been ill for five days. She lay motionless, as if dead. She was unconscious. Her cheeks were sunk. Her lips were partly ajar. unmistakable symptoms of approaching death was there on her face.

14. Diamelen heard some strange voices from under the water. Suggests something ominous, of say, her death.

15. 'Such a man can disturb the course of fate by glances or words.'- view of the polars about Arsat. They think Arsat might be in league with the devil.

16. Juragan means steersman.

17. According to Arsat one can lay down the heaviness of his trouble in a friend's heart. This he found in the White man.

18. 'if such is her fate.'- Tuan said this about Diamelen when Arsat asked him if she would die.

19. 'A writing may be lost; a lie may be written; but what the eye has seen is truth...' - Arsath says this to Tuan about his love for Diamelen.
20. Name of the ruler under whom Arsath and Diamelen served - Si Dendring.
21. Name of the ruler's mistress - Inchimidah.
22. 'O Mara Bahia.' - A Malay expression meaning o calamity/ great danger.
23. Arsath and his brother acted as sword bearer to the ruler.
24. "There's no worse enemy and no better friend..." - Arsath says this. He says that that a brother can be the best friend or the worst enemy because they know each-other well.
25. "You remember the lady with the veiled face." - Arsath says this to Tuan the lady with the veiled face refers to Inchimidah.
26. According to Arsath rulers are given might and authority but all men are given love, strength and courage.
27. 'We are two who are like one.' - Arsath's brother says this to Arsath.
28. 'There is a time when a man should forget loyalty and respect.' - Arsath says this,
29. "She came running along the shore, rapid and leaving no trace, like a leaf driven by the wind into the sea." - Arsath about Diamelen on the day of their elopement.

30. Arsat believed that if he could escape Inchi Midah's fury and the Ruler's sword, he would be able to go to country with his Diamen where death is unknown.
31. 'There is half a man in you, the other half in that woman.'- Arsat's brother says this. The woman he speaks of is Diamelen.
32. In his fight against the Ruler's men, Arsat's brother shot four times from his gun.
33. Arsat's brother called Arsat three times for help because he was overpowered by the enemy. Arsat did not respond not because he was afraid but because he wanted to live in peace with love and out of the domain of death.
34. 'I don't know whether I had killed him or not.'- Arsat says this about the man whose boat Arsat hijacked to elope with Diamelen.
35. The flight of the white eagle is symbolic of Diamelen's soul getting released from her body.
36. After Diamelen's death Arsat told the white man that he will not eat or sleep in the house where Diamelen died. He would rather see his road to decide what to do next..
37. After Diamelen's death Arsat realized the vanity of his desire to live in love and peace, away from the fear of death. He realized that death is invincible. He was left in total darkness and despair.
38. After the white man left lagoon, Arsat stood motionless and still. His face and eyes were stony. He looked at the bright sun. when the white man's boat left the lagoon and passed into the creek, he stood like a statue.

39. Diamelen's death awakens Arsat to the stern realities of life. His illusion was over. His past act of shame and cowardice kindles the fire of vengeance and he resolves to avenge himself on his brother's killers.

40. The white man likes Arsat for his valour, loyalty and constancy in love.

41. The white man serves the role of chorus- one who is paradoxically participant and commentator on the scheme of action.

42. 'He was a man young, powerful, with broad chest and muscular arms.'- this is said about Arsat.

43. Arsat wore only his sarong.

By Dr. A Rahaman.