

Answer these questions.

a. What bad habits did Aksionov have before his marriage?

→ Aksionov was a person of great charm and cheerful disposition who sought happiness in life. However, prior to getting married, he had some negative habits that included excessive drinking and engaging in physical altercations. He had a tendency to consume alcohol in large quantities, which often resulted in him becoming unruly and causing disturbances.

b. What can be the meaning of his wife's dream?

→ The wife had a dream that her husband returned to their hometown with grey hair, which she interpreted as a bad omen. She became afraid of her husband and thought the dream was a sign of evil.

c. Why did Aksionov think of killing himself?

→ Aksionov considered killing himself because he was constantly reminded of the difficult circumstances he had endured in his life, despite being innocent. He couldn't forget the torture he had endured, the people he was imprisoned with, the 26 years he spent in jail, and how it had aged him prematurely. These painful memories made him feel miserable, and he thought about taking his own life.

d. Why did Makar disclose that he had killed the merchant?

→ Makar disclosed that he had killed the merchant because he felt ashamed of himself. He felt pity over Aksionov. Aksionov saved Makar from the governor though he was a victim of Makar's crime. The act of Aksionov made Makar feel ashamed and disclose his crime.

e. Why doesn't Aksionov wish to return to his family at the end of the story?

→ Aksionov doesn't wish to return his family at the end of the story because he has become quite Old. He has spent his entire life in prison without committing any crime. He is feeble too at this age. He desires to die in the prison instead of going to his family. Reference to the context a. "Well, old man," repeated the Governor, "tell me the truth: who has been digging under the wall?"

i. Who is that old man?

→ That old man is Aksionov who has spent his twenty-six years in prison.

ii. Which truth is the speaker asking about?

→ The speaker is asking about the truth of digging an escape hole.

iii. Which wall does the speaker mean?

→ The speaker means the prison's wall.

b. Describe Aksionov's character.

→ Ivan Dmitrich Aksionov was a wealthy merchant in Vladimir, Russia. He owned two shops and a house and was a good-looking man with curly hair who loved to sing and have fun. Before getting married, he used to drink excessively but later changed his ways and became a virtuous person who valued faith, forgiveness, freedom, and acceptance.

Unfortunately, he was accused of murdering and robbing a fellow merchant, which led to him spending 26 years in prison. Despite facing many challenges, including losing his home and business, he remained mentally strong and even grew closer to God. He was a truthful person and maintained his innocence until the end, but his fate was ultimately sealed, and he died in prison.

c. What is the theme of the story?

→ The story "God Sees the Truth, but Waits" deals with several important themes, including guilt, forgiveness, faith, conflict, freedom, and acceptance. Forgiveness is a major theme of the story, as Aksionov is able to forgive Makar Semyonich for a crime he did not commit, despite spending 26 years in prison for it. The story illustrates that forgiveness is the best form of revenge.

d. Which symbols are used in the story and what do they indicate?

→ We find the use of many symbols here in this story some of them are:

- The house and shops symbolize earthly possessions that ultimately do not provide support to Aksionov, who loses everything by the end of the story.
- Aksionov's wife's nightmare, which includes the symbol of grey hair, foreshadows the terrible fate that befalls Aksionov in his life.
- The prison is a powerful symbol of Aksionov's suffering, but also his spiritual transformation during his 26-year sentence.
- The book "The Lives of the Saints" is a symbol of Aksionov's religious transformation, which leads him to devote his life to God and maintain his faith until the end.

Reference beyond the text

a. What role does religion play in Aksionov's life? How does he undergo a spiritual transformation in the story?

→ Religion was very important to Aksionov. He spent 26 years in prison, hoping for God to clear his name. While in prison, he worked hard, bought a religious book, and devoted his life to God. He learned about spirituality, fate, forgiveness, and acceptance. Aksionov forgave the real murderer and found peace. He died a peaceful man because he chose to live a spiritual life.

b. What does the story tell us about the existence of unfair system of justice?

→ The Story tells us about the existence of unfair system of justice as:

1. Aksionov was a handsome man who used to drink and fight before marriage. He later changed and became a good man with virtuous qualities. He was accused of a crime he didn't commit, spent 26 years in prison, lost his home and business, and died in prison.
2. Aksionov's wife had a nightmare where she saw him with grey hair. This symbolized Aksionov's terrible fate, which turned out to be true.
3. The story uses symbols such as the house and shops to represent earthly possessions that do not help Aksionov, the prison to represent his suffering and spiritual transformation, the nightmare to represent his fate, and the book "The Lives of the Saints" to represent his religious transformation.
4. Religion plays a vital role in Aksionov's life. He spends his whole life in prison, devoted to God and learning about spirituality. He realizes the importance of forgiveness and peace and obtains peace at last before he dies.
5. The story highlights the existence of an unfair justice system through Aksionov's wrongful imprisonment and punishment for a crime he didn't commit. He suffers for 26 years but ultimately forgives the real murderer and obtains peace before he dies.

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