

Testament of a Walker

Textual questions and answers

Part-I

1. What is an automobile according to the author?

Ans. For the author, an automobile served as a means to attain his purpose of reaching a particular place. He is satisfied with the basic values of the car and quite ignorant of the sophisticated equipments that are installed in the car.

2. What causes ecstasy in every auto pundit?

Ans. Author's new imported car and its sophisticated features cause ecstatic reactions in every auto pundit who sees it. The car's manoeuvrable steering wheels, the push-button glass, the floating seats, the multi-coloured speedometer, the concealed air-conditioner, the digital alarm and calculator, the tape recorder, or the dashboard panel attracted to the auto pundits toward it.

3. In Narayan's opinion, what does he lack?

Ans. In Narayan's opinion, he lacks automobile sensibility as he is indifferent to the subtler values in a car. He believes that man is destined to walk and hence they have been given a pair of legs.

4. What are the things that the author values most?

Ans. The things which the author values the most are privacy and anonymity.

5. What name does the author propose for his most ambitious work?

Ans. The name the author propose for his most ambitious work is The "Testament of a Walker".

Part-II

1. Why do you think the author is indifferent at the mention of any petrol 'hike'?

Ans. The author is indifferent at the mention of any petrol hike' because he prefers to walk and firmly believes that man is destined to walk. He has been gifted with two legs for that purpose

which does not require any petrol or gears. The author also feels that the price hiking will end when it reaches a point, where it can not be hiked any further.

2. What made the author fear that he would soon become bankrupt?

Ans. The author feared that he would soon turn bankrupt because his imported car was supposed to be taken to an accredited workshop where the mechanics were specialized in repairing that particular model of car. The workshop was situated miles away from his locality and he had to travel a long distance to get his car repaired. The specialist also used to direct him to an exclusive shop for purchase of spare parts, where the prices were very high and one was not supposed to bargain there. The frequent trips to the workshop made him fear that he would soon become bankrupt as he had to take his car for servicing quite often.

3. What fell on Narayan's car when it was parked in front of the hospital?

Ans. Two cyclists collided and fell on Narayan's car when it was parked in front of the hospital which resulted in the damage of the parking light on the left side.

4. What part of author's car could not ordinarily be replaced?

Ans. The parking light on the left side of the imported car could not ordinarily be replaced in India.

5. How, according to the author, did his friend spend his leisure hours?

Ans. The author's friend spent his leisure hours with his imported car. He did all of the repairs himself as he could not trust the mechanics or workshops present in the country. He would enjoy getting under the car even on a Sunday. He also used to devote a lot of time in acquiring spare parts from near and far for his car and modified his car himself while acting like surgeon performing a major surgery.

PART--III

1. Describe the author's imported car.

Ans. The author described in the lesson how he came to own a car which was not only flashy in its outward appearance but was full of sophistication as it came with numerous gadgets installed in it. It had recessed handle, manoeuvrable steering wheels, push-button glass, floating seats,

multi-coloured speedometer, concealed air- conditioner, digital alarm and calculator, tape recorder and an attractive dashboard panel which often attracted the auto pundits toward it. Each and every aspect about the car left them awestruck.

2. Why do you think the author regards himself as a 'fanatic' in the context of walking?

Ans. A fanatic person is a person who is greatly enthusiastic about something. The author regards himself as a fanatic as he is very fond of walking. He explains that he used to walk ten miles a day, morning and evening when he was young. In the later part of his life, he would walk irrespective of the season, though on a lesser scale. Even if bad weather compelled him to remain indoors, he would yet walk in the verandah of his house. As he is too passionate about walking, he refers himself as a fanatic.

3. What is Narayan's opinion about his driver?

Ans. Narayan explains the characteristics of his driver when he talks about his imported car. He considers his driver to be an old fashioned man who was not used to driving a car that is equipped with an air- conditioner. The driver was used to thrusting his arm out of the window to point out the direction he was taking. But now the driver could not thrust his arm out as the glasses were raised when the air-conditioner was on and his fist would bang against the glass when he did that out of habit. He was also aggressive as he used to gesticulate animatedly at the pedestrians and pass remarks aloud. He was also used to the noise outside the car while driving. The imported car was not according to his taste as it would restrict his actions. Therefore he became less confident while driving the car.

Part-IV

1. Discuss the reasons for author's impervious attitude towards his car.

Ans. The reasons for the author's impervious attitude towards his car despite its subtler values of the car. For him, a vehicle is a means of conveyance. Therefore the elegance of an imported car with all its flashy sophistication did not matter to him. He was ignorant about the flashy features installed in the car which usually attracted the people who were interested in automobiles.

2. Narrate the circumstances that led Narayan to 'get rid' of his car.

Ans. R.K. Narayan said that it was a 'quirk of fate' that had led him to own an imported car. He as a person appreciated the values of a robust walk that maintains not only one's health and also was not expensive at all. Having a luxurious car often invaded his privacy and he could not remain anonymous as he preferred to. Along with it, the maintainance of the car was very costly as he had to visit the accredited shop for the spare parts and also had to travel a long distance to avail that service.

One day, when his car was parked in fron of a hospital, two cyclists collided and fellon his car which damaged one of the parking lights of the car. The mechanic looked into it and told the author that he would change tha cover of the light with plastic and removed the whole light. Later when the author enquired about the light he refused to the fact of taking the light away and thus cheated the author. The author devastated by this loss decided to lock his car up in the shade. He also said that as person who did not have to go out on a regular basis was not in the need of that kind of a car.