

The Death of Ivan Ilyich and Other Stories - Leo Tolstoy

1. The Prisoner of the Caucasus

Zhilin was a Russian soldier in the Caucasus. He got a letter from her mother stating that she was sick and found a nice bride for him so that he could come home. He took the leave and went back home. At that time, there was a war with Tartar and if they saw a Russian soldier, they carried him away or killed him. So, they travelled with an escort.

The train was slow and Zhilin and Kryostlin were being impatient, their horses were great and fast. So, they decided to travel ahead with their loaded guns. At one point, Zhilin went on ahead uphill to check the road. He saw Tartar with their horses. He ran down the hill as fast as possible, but he was caught.

He was taken to the Tartar's village and put in the shed with a shackle. Then, he was asked to write a letter home for ransom of three thousand, but he refused. Tartars showed him that Kryostlin was also arrested, and he agreed to pay him as requested. But Zhilin was steadfast, Tartar agreed. Zhilin wrote a letter but addressed it incorrectly. He also asked to remove the shackles and put them together. They only allowed to remove the shackles at night. He was trying to run away.

Zhilin was good at handicraft. He made a doll and put it outside. Dina snatched it, and dressed it, but her mother smashed it. He made another one for her. She was so glad that she brought a bucket of milk for him. He also fixed another man's watch and was getting the name of craftsman in the village. Everyone comes to him when they have broken things, and later they came to him when they were sick. The master of Zhilin did not want to let him go if he had not given any promise.

One day he went to the hill, but the boy prevented him from going too far. But he persuaded him and looked for the route to escape. He calculated and determined the direction of escape. He wanted to escape that night, but a man had died, and they celebrated by killing and eating a mare for three nights. He also asked Krystolin to come with him.

They run away but their shoes were not well, and their feet got swollen. At one point, Krystolin stopped and gave up. But Zhilin got him up and put him on his shoulder and kept running. But the tartar and the dog caught up to them and arrested them. They were put in a hole and barely

fed. They were put on shackles all the time. Dina was barely seen. They were ordered to write another letter for ransom.

Dina one day came to tell them that the tartar was going to kill them as the Russians were getting closer. Zhilin asked Dina to find a pole. After much hesitation, she brought a pole. Krystolin refused to come with him. He escaped and found the Russian cassocks. Krystolin was ransomed after another month. Zhilin believed that he was not meant to be married and kept serving in the Caucasus.

2. The Diary of a Madman

Mitya was at the provincial office being surrounded by a group of officials who are deciding if he is mad. He was holding his desire to speak, as he knows that he would be regarded as mad if he spoke. He does know that he is mad. It came when he was a child. He was four when he was laid down by a nanny to sleep, he loved nanny, papa, mama, and everyone. Then he heard his mom shouting at the nanny, it was awful, he cried, and nobody could calm him down. The fit was the first sign of madness.

The fit came back when he was being told a story of Jesus being crucified and beaten even though he forgave the perpetrators. He asked why they do so even when they were forgiven. Her aunt cannot give any answer. He cried and nobody could not calm him down. When he became a boy, the sexuality arouses and healed him. Like other boys, he lived a happy life till thirty-five, nearly twenty years free of fit, looking for and enjoying pleasures. He pursued a law degree and married and had children. He wanted to invest in a real estate, so he went on to a trip to buy the land in a cheap manner. Before he could reach the destination, he rested in an inn where they provide square and white-washed room. It scared him and made him see that he was living a dying life as death and life has become the same for him.

He reached to his destination house. He saw the steward being sad as the house was being sold. He did not buy it as he did not have enough money. He came back home and went on as usual, except he started praying and going to the church. His family noticed the change. His visits to Moscow also raised the same questions about existential crisis such as why he lives.

He became more pious and read the lives of the Saints to imitate. In his neighborhood, a house was being sold on the profitable terms. He went to buy it, talked to the sellers and the servants.

He learnt that he was profiting on the poverty of others. He did not buy it, and his wife was mad at him. One day when he was leaving the church, he found the light. He does not need to be afraid of nothing as things should not exist, and things do not exist. Afterall, none of this exists.

3. The Death of Ivan lynch

When the court was in recess, the prosecutors were discussion of the death of Ivan Lynch. They were interested about how promotions and transfers were to fill the position of Ivan. Among them, Ptyor was the close friend of Ivan, he had known him since Ivan was a merry boy. Ptyor went to the Ivan's after the dinner. He saw the wife of Ivan in black coat. Ivan was lying in the coffin looking like other dead person with yellow forehead.

The widow called Pytor in her drawing room to discuss about the pension and how to squeeze more. She also mentioned that Ivan was conscious till the last hour, screaming aloud in pain and saying farewell to them. Pytor scolded the government for its stinginess and replied that squeezing more was impossible. He then went to Fyodor's. It was a relief for him to smell fresh air.

Ivan Llych died at the age of forty-five. He had a sister and a younger brother. He was the middle of them, intelligent yet merry. He went to law school and enjoyed his life in pleasant and decent ways. After school, he served in the provincial office. But a new post appeared in the institutions. He accepted the position of examining magistrate. He posted for a group photograph before he left his old position. Wherever he went, he attracted the finest and noble people.

Then he met his future wife. He won her heart by dancing with her occasionally. He married her as it would be acceptable to the society. After the marriage, he enjoyed the conjugal caresses for a while. But when his wife became pregnant, his way of live became disrupted by her peevishness and jealousy. So, he channeled his pleasure towards his work. He got promoted to assistant prosecutor to prosecutor and transferred to another place. He got children but three of them died. His wife blamed him for them. He got a daughter who was home schooled and a young boy.

The year of 1880 was the hardest for Ivan Llyich. He got passed over for promotion twice and nobody was helping him, even his father ignored him. His salary of 3,500 rubles was not enough

and he was accumulating debts that are far from normal. So, he took a vacation to think things over. So, he went to Petersburg even though his wife deterred him.

At Petersburg, he found a friend of his, who showed him a message that there will be upheaval and new changes in the ministry. It did happen with the things that are more favorable to him. He got a post with a salary of 5,000 rubles. It was two steps higher from his previous one. He moved to the new town for the post.

The couple arranged the decoration of the new apartments buying expensive things. Though they quarreled sometimes, mirage of things-to-do distract them. Ivan lived his life pleasantly, and decently as usual. He invited the best sort of people over dinner, dining the expensive meal, surrounding his family with best sort of people. He got the talent to separate his official manner with his usual manner. His son went to school.

The joy and easiness ceased when he noticed a discomfort in her abdomen. He consulted with a doctor who thought the issue to be the appendix but could not answer if it is a danger or not. Ivan followed his prescription but went to consult with another doctor. He kept visiting different doctors taking prescriptions from them. It made him worse.

Everyone in the court noticed the change in him and talked about replacing his position when it vacates. He played cards with them and loosed a lot as he could not focus. When his brother-in-law came to visit him, the pain worsens. His wife noticed and asked if he is ok and kissed him on the forehead. He hated her for the kiss.

The situation of Ivan became worse. He tried to hide the pain in the court making mistakes. It was a pity to see a smart judge like him making mistakes. Ivan had realized that it was a matter of time before his seat became vacant. His illness was getting worse. He slept less and less. The doctor ordered different food and tests for his stools.

The food was getting more and more tasteless. His servant, Gerasim was assisting him in collecting his stool. He was a clean servant and the fact that a clean man had to collect his dirt irritated him, but Gerasim reassured him that it did not mind him at all. Ivan became to like talking to him and his pain seemed to lessen when Gerasim held his legs over the shoulder.

Everyone around him was lying to him that he would get better. He hated it but Gerasim did not lie and acknowledge it as a fact. Ivan wanted to be caressed and cared like a sick child even though he was an honorable judge.

He could not distinguish between day and night. It was all the same for him. The famous doctor came to him and examined him. He believed that it was all deception to him. He asked if there is a chance for recovery. The doctor replied that there is possibility. He was hopeful for a few minutes. But the nature of the same pain in the same room surrounded by the same objects made him depressed again. His daughter came to see him. It was horrible to hear lies after lies. After the party went out, he called for Gersiam.

His pain got worsened. His wife and Gersiam came but nothing helped. He stared at the back of the Sofa reflecting on his life. He asked his soul and God why he tormented him and what is the death for. He got no answers. He reflected on his early life and compare it with the life after the law school. He remembered his love for a woman and a passion for governor's job. Weeks went by.

His wife came to console him, but he became sourer. He drove all of them away including his son. He was struggling to face death. He drove the doctor away as well. He was heavily reliant on opium. At dinner, his wife suggested that he take communion. After communion and confession, he became hopeful of life again. He howled and growled in pain for three days, struggling to get aloof of the hands of invisible hands. He even hit his sons while struggling. He apologized for that. Then, he saw a light for a brief moment. It was the light at the end. He did not struggle anymore, even though the pain continues for two more hours. He stopped breathing and stretched out and died. The death is finished.

4. The Kreutzer Sonata

He saw a gentleman and a lady sitting near his carriage on the train. Also, a man was sitting next to him quietly. When the train starts moving, a lawyer also came sitting near them. The woman and the gentleman started talking about love and marriage. The gentleman was taking the side of marriage before love while the woman was insisting on the love. The lawyer was mediating between them.

He was interested in their talk. Then, they all heard a sob or a cry from a man next to him, who interrupted the conversation. He asked the woman what love is and how long it usually lasts. The woman answered that love is the preference for a man or a woman over others. And she seemed weird to be asked by the question of how long love lasts. The man revealed himself that he was

the one who was alluded in the current popular case of a man killing a wife. Only he was left near the man. The rest moved to another carriage at the next station.

The man told him the rest of the story. He was a boy when he found pleasure in women. He said that depravity is the root cause of everything, and he was known as a fornicator when he was a boy. He felt that being a fornicator is the same as being a drug addict or alcoholic. He lived like that way till thirty. Then, he found of a woman worthy of his love. He proposed her and showed her a diary of his past lives. She wanted to drop him but did not.

The man then went on explaining that men desired women only out of amorous feelings. It was an insult to allege that the short-term prostitute is rebuffed while the long-term prostitute is respected. Women used sensual power over men, dominating the whole species. Women exerted those powers to replace the rights they lost. The man asked him to look at the factory like accessories and jewelries to please the women consuming hard labor and resources. The man married her fiancé just like everyone else, but not for money. The man desired her perfection. The man continued that there is no purpose or goal for the mankind to be here on Earth. If we look from the perspectives of creationist, there is no sense to include mortality and sexual passion. The same is true for the evolutionist. The man married her wife and found her dull after four days of marriage. She lied that she missed her mother, he consoled her but did not succeed. They quarreled for the first time, then second, and so on. The man said that the marriage was oppressive and regretted that he could not see the vileness of it then.

The two passengers came in and sat not far from them. The man continued his story telling how love that is shameful and loathsome has become something that is sweet and beautiful. The man said that these concepts are behind the reasons why he killed his wife with knife in October, but the main weapon was not the physical knife itself. The man told him that men always sees women as an object of enjoyment and pleasure. Even though we are giving them equal rights and respect, as long as we continued to see them as an object of enjoyment, no amount of education and liberation can change the slavery of half of the mankind: women. Women had to serve as a wife, a mother, and a nurse even when they are pregnant. It is the form of exploited labor in the name of love.

The man carried on, explaining his hatred for doctors and their ignorance and materialism. The man believed that the doctor made his life worse and terrible, and he would pay half of his property, just to keep them away. This hatred was due to the doctor's prescription that his wife

must not nurse her children. Besides, the man believed that the children were a source of discord, and a tool for struggle more so than a source of pain. The man believed that the children made his lives worse, though they did bring some joy. But the pain outweighed them.

The man continued to moan about his marital life. After four years of marriage, they quarreled every day, not out of any reasonable cause, just out of hatred for each other. Everything around them was a source of discord. They tried to move to the city. The doctor asked her not to bear the child anymore. Then, the man moped about some children from pauper not being subject to social class and so on. The doctor's advice work. The man's wife became prettier, and men focused their eyes on her.

Then this man appeared. Their parents were close. He was teaching a piano and violin to the man's wife. When they first saw each other, they mentally asked if it is possible. This man was the reason why I got acquitted. The court believed that my killing was to save my honor for being deceived, the truth was far from it. We quarreled every day before the man appeared. The man's wife even tried to take the children away and leave him. And the man also tried to move to another country, but it did not happen due to half talk, and half consolation. One day when he came back home, he found his wife and the man hanging out with a loud music in a room. The man knew exactly what was happening but did not react the situation violently. From that day on, he did not speak to his wife anymore.

One night, his wife came in and sat next to him. The man hated her and his rage against her was so strong that he could have strangled her to death then. But he only threw a rage and shouted her to get out. She was stupefied and left. That night, she felt genuinely ill, and the man consoled her. They made peace under the shade of so-called love. She promised that there was nothing going on between her and someone like Turksey. She even went further saying that she could cancel the Sunday's play, though everyone had been invited. It did not happen. They played a duo on the Sunday. However, Turskey said good-bye to the man's wife and left. It pleased the man. The man left for the district session and then a letter from his wife arrived mentioning that Turskey had come to bring some scores. He woke up in a frenzy that night and went back home in the first light.

The first part of the trip back home was pleasurable for the man, he managed to suppress his imagination of what awaits him at home. The man felt peace. But his state of mind got agitated again when he was travelling on the train like this one, he was riding now. The man could not

suppress his imagination leading to wild thoughts and jealousy. When the man arrived home, he ordered his lackey to fetch his things from the station. Then, the man went tiptoe around the house, he was trying hard not to be heard. When he arrived his study room, he cried and felt the same state of mind like when he pushed his wife and smashed things. He wanted to do the same thing.

He took off his shoes and pulled out a curved dagger. Then, the man jumped into his wife's room. The man could not forget the expressions on their faces. They tried to persuade him that there was nothing going on, but they could not even finish their words. The man jumped on his wife, and her lover tried to stop him but seeing his furious eyes, he ran away. The man did not follow him as he did not want to be ridiculed by others. So, the man put the dagger under her left ribs. He vividly remembered how he did it, he did not lose consciousness. His wife said that he had killed her. After that, he went back to his room and slept for two hours. Then he heard a knock. It was not the police but his wife's sister. She came out to call him to give forgiveness to her. When he saw her dying, he saw the human being in her. He tried to ask forgiveness but to no avail. His wife died and he was taken to the prison and stayed there for eleven months awaiting the trial. He grasped the full picture of what he had done only when he saw her in the coffin. He ended the story with "Please, forgive me."

5. The Devil

When Evgeny's father died, he and his siblings had received bad inheritance, that is, the debts from his late father and mismanagement of gluttonous managers. Evgeny made a deal with a real estate friend of his and tried to make the land as farmland. He had great both physicality and mentality. He worked hard and he had the personality that everyone trusts him even in hard situations. However, he had an issue with women. Even though he is not a libertine, he could not get hold of his desire. He tried to keep women from other towns.

Evgeny, so, arranged a forest house with Danilo, a former huntsman and forester of his late father's. He was embarrassed of it at first, but it was done. He only asked that the women should be beautiful and healthy. The next day, he went to the forest house and saw a woman there. After a quarter of an hour, he left and paid Danilo a ruble. Evgeny was hit by another debt, his father must have been lending any debt he could during his late years. He discussed the situation

with his mother. Evgeny decided that he will talk to the debtor to postpone it. His mother was thinking that the marriage with a wealthy family would save them from this situation.

Evgeny was thinking the marriage in an alternative way, he wanted to marry out of love. He continued to see Stepanadia through Danilo more than ten times. They all went well except for one time when her husband stayed longer than expected. Danilo brought another girl, but he rejected in disgust. He only met Stepanadia and never arranged the meeting himself. But one day when he visited the family of Annensky, he fell in love with Liza. His mother thought he sold himself cheap, as she was not rich. But for Evgeny, it was love, she was meek and trusting and not rich and that attractive.

Before the wedding, his mother reminded Evgeny of putting an end to his prior affairs. His mother wanted to move out, but Liza persuaded her to stay in the wing. The wedding came and they started their married life. The first year of married life was hard for Evgeny, he still needed to attend to the debt, farm, and factory. His wife's money saved him from some trouble. Besides, Liza fell off a horse, the fall was fortunate, but she was pregnant at that time. She took a long time to recover from the miscarriage. These things made the first year of his married life difficult. However, she got pregnant again. Her jealousy was also burning more brightly along with the pregnancy.

Liza decided to clean the house before the holiday as she wanted to be a good housewife. She called the peasant women to clean it. One of them was Stephanida. When Evgeny came back, he noticed that the house was being cleaned, and he went in to change the boots. On the way, he noticed the body of Stephanida and could not help staring at her. He once again looked back on her. His behaviors annoyed him. Liza at the dinner, after everyone left, noticed that there was something wrong with him. But he could not divulge it to her. He wanted her to think of him as innocent and pure like before. So, he arranged with his servants not to bring Stephanida back to clean his house.

When the holiday, Pentecost, comes, his wife, Liza, called him to see a woman dancing merrily with a beautiful body. It was none other than Stephanida. Evgeny thought that it was impossible to run away from her. He wanted to chase her down but saved a neighbor who called him to ask something. He was afraid that this kind of madness would happen again. So, he tried to set up measures to stop himself. Firstly, he called his trustful servant and asked him to persuade the

family of Stephanida to move away from here. It was a long shot but the thought that he took it calmed him.

His wife slipped again. Both feared that there would be miscarriage, but his wife assured that she felt the boy alive. Evgeny called for the famous doctor who came and said there were no indications of miscarriage as well as no counter-indication that there is no miscarriage. He prescribed something, and made the servant read the female anatomy.

Evgeny stayed beside his wife's bed all night, but he could not help thinking about Stephanida. His wife asked him to go outside. He wandered around the woods waiting for her to show up. She did show up once, but he did not have a chance to be alone with her. His wife condition recovered after two weeks. One day Evgeny met Stephanida alone by chance, but he was saved again by his servant, Masha. Evgeny was tormented by his desire, shame, and guilt. He regarded the love of his wife as pure and sacred. One day his uncle came to visit him. He divulged all his feelings. His uncle advised him to stay away at Crimea. So, they moved to Crimea for two months. It was splendid and healing for him. He forgets about his torments and desire and guilt. Everything was going as he wished. He still owned his estate; his factory was running well, and he had been elected. Everyone around him was celebrating him. He saw Stephanida on the way and was glad that seeing her did not touch him. When he came back home, he could not remove his eyes from a woman threshing the harvest wearing a red handkerchief. It was none other than Stephanida. He still felt the pain, desire, guilt, and there was no salvation. So, he decided that it would be best to kill his wife or Stephanida. But he resorted to kill himself. His wife entered when he was about to kill himself. But she did not notice it and left for a moment. When he came back, he had killed himself. Nobody could find any cause to the suicide. Everyone concluded that he was a psychopath.

An alternate ending: Evgeny killed Stephanida, and it was tried in court and sentenced to church penance due to his insanity. He began to drink and came back home as an irresponsible alcoholic. Everyone concluded that he was a psychopath.

6. Master and Man

Vassily Andrich was having a feast at the church with his last guests, but his mind was on settling the deal with his neighbor for seven hundred for the woods. So, when the last guests left,

he orders his one and only sober man named Nikita to harness the horses. Nikita was always a drunkard and Vassily had fired him several times but always recalled him due to his honesty and cheap rate. Nikita's family had always left him alone due to the fear of his drunk state. When Vassily was about to leave with three thousand moneys, his pregnant wife begged him to take Nikita with him as the weather seemed to get worse and his wallet being full. Vassily was angry for the suggestion but decided to take Nikita with him.

Along the way, Vassily tried to converse with Nikita. He joked and teased Nikita in his situation with his wife. Nikita did not hear it well but when he heard it, he did not care the joke that much. But when Vassily shifted the subject to horse trading, Nikita became livelier. Vassily tried to trade a horse with him, but Nikita knew his master tactics. He would reduce the price of the horse, and a result would not pay his salary for three months. They drove silent for some thirty minutes. But then they lost their way. They tried to get it out of the forest. When they did get out of the forest, they could not understand where they are and which part of the road they were on. They reached a village and recognized it as Grishkino. They have strayed from the right to the left side of the turn. They had to turn back to the road to their destination. Vassily met a friend of his, and he invited him to stay at there for the night. But Vassily kindly declined and asked for the way back and went on. The snow was neither increasing nor slackening. The road was still covered with heavy snow, and Vassily had to rely on the horse to make the right choice of the turn. They saw a sleigh on the road, and they asked them to get around. A few minutes later, they lost again and reached again back to the village, Grishkino. They were invited at the house of one of the wealthiest in the village. They decided to stay for a few instances and travel at night when the moon is bright.

At least, 22 people dwelled in the house. They offered them vodka and warm samovar. Nikita was waiting for the tea as his wife did not want him to drink up the vodka. They even offered them a warm place for the night. But Anderich kindly declined but accepted the offer of showing the turn. So, they went again led by the guide. When the guide shouted during the right turn, they thought that the turn was there and charged ahead. After twenty or so minutes later, they were lost again. This time, they were in a ravine. It was very exhausting for the horses to try again and again to escape from the ravine. After their escape, Nikita unharnessed the horses and prepared to spend the night at the roadside.

Nikata dug a hole and sunk in it. Vassily tried to smoke but the wind kept blowing it off. He got a few puffs, and it cheered him. When he was lying under the thick snow, he thought about his deal, unloved wife, debt, and what pride he has in his life. He feared freezing, and the fear rose higher and higher. Finally, he decided to check the time and put out his watch with much difficulty. It was only ten minutes past midnight, it is a long night. His fear consumed him faster and faster. Then out of fear, he decided to move forward and harnessed the horses and charged through the snow in the supposed direction of watch house and the forest.

Nikita was also having a reflection about his life; he thought about his sins and drunkenness. But he did neither dwell on the thoughts nor care much about what to happen. Suddenly, he was shaken by his master's horse charging. He asked him to leave the burlap to cover him, but the master did not hear him. Vassily charged ahead and saw something black. He was glad that he had found a village, but it was just moving woods. It goes on like some twenty minutes. He thought that he would perish like it. He jumped off the horse and tried to steady himself. Then he saw something black again, it was his sleigh. His horse had taken him back to the sleigh. He saw Nikita sleeping in his place covered with snow.

He called Nikita, who was frozen from the cold. Nikita replied that the master gave all his pay to his family. Vassily took the snow out of his boots, tied his horse, and spread his coat and kept the body of Nikita warm with his flushed body. Vassily lied there for three or four hours, and time passed quickly. Before he woke up, he had a dream where he was lying in his bed at home, and he was waiting for someone. The wait was both eerie and joyful. It was death. He was now seeing himself as Nikita, and his life was Nikita. Nikita woke up at dawn wearing the dead master's coat. When Nikita woke up, he was sure that he was dead. But fortunately, he was dug out by the muzihs and saved. He stayed in the hospital for two months and lived twenty more years.

7. Father Sergius

An event in Moscow unfolded suddenly that everyone was surprised. Kazatsky, a young officer with very promising future, had handed a resignation a month before his wedding to one of the most attractive women in the town. Kazatsky was not born rich, and he was received by the high society. But he wanted to be received as an equal in the highest society, so he tried to get in there

by marriage. Then he met the Countess Korotkov, she was the most attractive woman in the town but had been a mistress to the Nikolay. At first, she was cold to Kasatsky, but things changed, and she received him more cordially.

He regarded his finance as pure and unattainable as most men would during the years of courting. But two weeks prior to their wedding, his finance divulged the secret that she was given herself to the Nikolay and was a mistress of his. Katasky walked to the house and reproached her mother for setting this up. He left the town, signed his resignation letter, and moved to the monastery. He lived at that monastery for seven years, casting away the desire and temptation. He was given the name of Father Sergius. The elder in the monastery was very kind to him and taught him in monastic ways. One day, the elder assigned him to a monastery near the city. Sergius was tempted several times out of his former pride. So, he wrote a letter to the elder, and the elder moved him to another monastery that is excluded from the city to cast out his desire and pride.

One day a group of people consisting of lawyers and ladies in the troika ride noticed that they are passing near the monastery of Sergius. They thought that it would be nice to see the handsome hermit and decided to spend the night at the Kazatsky's monastery. The sleigh swayed and took them to the monastery.

Father Sergius was in the sixth year of the recluse, fighting against his doubt and lust. Then he heard a knock, believing that it was from the devil. The woman wailed and wooed him when he let her in. She tried to seduce him in many ways, then the father cut his finger with an axe to redeem for the sin. The woman realized her sin and begged him for his forgiveness. Father Sergius said that God will forgive her. She was tonsured as a nun a year later. Father Sergius was taking bread and other foods at those early days. But later, he became stricter and stricter, only accepting black bread, and handing out all other foods to the poor. One day he was visited by a mother and a sick son. He prayed for the sick son, and he recovered a few days later. The name of his and the holy healing power of his were spreading like wildfire. Many people called him now the elder. Even though he had long and gray beard, he still had his black and curly hair. Since he was attracting many visitors, the authorities of the monastery arranged things around here. Father Sergius was tired of blessing and meeting the endless visitors. He rejoiced the influence but felt the more influence he rejoices, the more truth he pushes away or the further he went out of the truth. So, he kept the plain peasant clothes, thinking of fleeing one day. One day

a merchant brought a daughter of his, who was suffering from many ailments. When he allowed the merchant's daughter to come in, he drew his hand into her breast, seducing again. Father Sergius took the plain clothes and went along the river. He tried to end his life, instead, he fell asleep, dreaming about a girl named Peshenka, and an angel came to guide him to go see Peshenka. So, he decided to visit her.

When he arrived at Pashenka, they recognized him as a pilgrim who were asking bread in the name of Christ. Pashenka was an old and withered grandma, who was providing music lessons for living. Father Sergius asked Pashenka not to divulge his identity to anyone else, and he came here on business, that is, to talk with her as a sinner and deceiver Kazatsky. Pashenka was surprised that Father Sergius was so humble. They talked, mostly Pashenka discussing her life and how she lived through these years. After the talk, he left and took the bread given by her. He understood what his dream meant. Peshanka was living for God under the pretext of people while he was living for the people under the pretext of God. He wondered around the village, reading Gospel and providing advice. Some abused him while most provided food for him. He lived like that and wondered like that for another eight months until he was arrested for having no paper. He was tried and sent to Siberia, where he settled on a rich muzih's farm, taking care of the children and teaching them.

8. After the Ball

A man cannot see what is good and what is bad, it is all a matter of the environment. But it is wrong as well, it is a matter of chance. Ivan told a group of friends about his love of a girl named Varenka. He described her well as a beautiful and slender woman. He told them about a ball, where he felt in love with her. She became bodiless to her. It is true that when you desire someone you pictured her naked, but when you love someone, her body became bodyless to you. At the ball, he saw her father, a colonel from the army. Her father danced with her, and all the people in the ball room admired them. Her father, the colonel, did not stay for the supper and went home. But she stayed behind. He took the feather from her fan. When he came back home, he was admiring her and could not sleep, holding the feather and twisting it. So, he went out and heard some music. He saw an army of soldiers punishing a Tartar by slashing him with a rod. The man was crying "Have mercy, brothers." But the colonel made sure that nobody in the file

shown any mercy. From that day on, he saw Varenka rarely, and his love dwindled. So, as he said, a man cannot...

9. The Forged Coupon

Part One

Foydor was an honest man with liberal idea. He was so liberal that he was against religiosity. At that day, everything was against him. He received a letter from someone calling him a dishonest man. The dinner was late. He scolded his son, Mitya, for asking more allowance as Mitya had a score to settle with his friend. When Mitya was back in his room, he read a note from his friend asking for six rubles he owed. He cursed his father for scolding him and calling him as a swindler. He went to his mother for six rubles. Since his mother was taking care of his sick younger brother, she replied that she would find it tomorrow. But he was not patient, so he went to Maikin, a bad sort of fella of his, to pawn his watch. But Manikin mentioned that there was a better way, so he shown Mitya a forged coupon. They cashed it out at the photography shop. Mitya settled the score with his friend with that money. The wife, the owner of the shop, who cashed the forged coupon out was scolded by her husband for doing so. The wife gets mad and went to sortie with a French teacher.

The photograph accessory dealer bought the logs with that forged coupon with a cheap price. He was glad that he did get rid of the coupon. When Ivan, the seller, cashed out the coupon at the counter, he was accused of forging the coupon and sent to the police station. At the police station, the photograph dealer was summoned, and he denied of even seeing Ivan. He even paid the porter some money so that he could testify for him. Ivan was sent to jail for forgery. Fortunately, he got out of the cell with some bribed money. He drunk the rest of the money and went back home. Ivan's wife was indignant at him, but realized that her husband was not lying, and asked him to lodge a complaint.

A lawyer took the case of it, not because he wanted the money but because he believed that Ivan was innocent. At the court, both the photograph dealer and his servant, Vassily, took the oath and kept their lies. The judge sentenced Ivan to pay for the court fees. It broke the spirit of Ivan.

Vassily went on serving the dealer, but one day he was dismissed because he was found stealing

money from the masters. Ivan was also disheartened by the event and found a living by grouping with horse thieves and gypsies. Ivan scouted first and told the thieves how and when to strike. The master suspected that a servant named Proshka was missing at that day and told the police to question him. He could not answer where he was, as he was meeting with his girlfriend. The police released him as there is no evidence. The master was sure of Proshka being a thief. He watched him in every move. One day he found out that Proshka drunk one half of the bottle that the master asked to buy. He was jailed for three months. It broke him and felt lazy and stole things after that. The master was not satisfied as he still could not locate the thieves.

The wife of the photograph dealer was ashamed of her being tricked by students. She looked out for the students but could not remember Mankin but remembered Mitya at once. So, she went to his school and told everything to the father, who once was defeated by Mitya's father in the battle of faith. So, the father confronted Mitya. But his mother found out and paid money to the wife of the photograph dealer to conceal it. The Father and Mitya's father fought in the battle again. The director had to control them. After that year, the father was tonsured as a monk.

Meanwhile, the porter, Vassily, was begging along the road, everyone provided him some foods and shelter. He was sick and tired of begging, so he was hired as a watchman in a farm. After that job, his desire for a huge sum of money was burning bright, so he along with a soldier, robbed a former owner of his, stealing near three hundred rubles.

Ivan, the horse thief, was doing more daring stealing. Everyone in the town knew that he was managing the steal, but nobody was dared to provide any evidence against him. One day, he was caught strolling around the state forest, and a soldier suspected him and searched through the forests and found a man with a stolen horse. Ivan was tried but there was no evidence against him. But everyone beat him, and someone smashed his head with a rock, killing him. Those who murdered him were tried and punished.

Stephan was the one who was punished with a jail time of one year. His life turned south when he was in prison. His house burned down, his wife went begging and died. He had no home and life when he was out of prison. He was treated well at an inn, an older acquaintance of his. But he understood that the fat owner stole the wife of other and he could not ignore that fact and kill him at night.

In a distinct town, Pytor was sending his peasants to jail for stealing. One day he rounds them up and count the cattle again and ask for the return of stolen cattle. But instead, the peasants said

that he was the thief, who was stealing from them. And killed him by mutilation. Those peasants were tried and two were sentenced to be hanged.

Those peasants were the acquaintances of Mr. Tyruin, who was spreading the ideas of socialism among them. At the trial, the revolutionaries made indignant attempts at the court, and their houses were searched, and pamphlets were found. He was arrested and sent to Petersburg. Miss Turchaninov followed him, but she was denied her entry. She then went to Police Chief; he could not do anything. So, she arranged a meeting with the Minister.

She tried to shoot the Minister, but she missed it twice. The minister oversiding the Tyruin was received praises and condolence from many high people including the sovereign himself.

Meanwhile, Marya, after collecting the money, met with Stephan. Stephan wandered around after killing the inn keeper. He robbed a house at night, killing three people including the Marya as he could not stand her voice. He went back to his night's lodging and lied there a few nights.

Part Two

Stephan was haunted by the voices of those whom he killed. He climbed out of the lodging and went to the pothouse, drinking. He was asked by the constable visiting the pothouse. Stephan confessed everything and was put in the jail. When he was questioned, he answered truthfully, he seemed to be absent-minded. The prosecutor believed that he was smart and trying something to escape. But he was haunted by those voices. So, he gave in, he hanged himself. But the rope broke. He was put in the common cell, where he met a preacher and Vassily. The preacher read the prayers aloud and Stephan understood the importance of mercy. Even God was merciful to the robbers and the criminals. After understanding that, Stephan became a different person.

His reputation became more pronounced when he interfered a bully in the jail. He was submissive but everyone respected him. During his solitary confinement, he began to read Gospels. Even the hangman in the jail refused to perform his duties. They began to understand that all men are brothers, and it is not their place to judge them. The judge who was presiding over Stephan's case took a serious interest in him. The judge was no other than Mankin himself, the one who forgot the coupon. He attended the law school and began an examining magistrate at a young age due to his connections. He was a dishonest man with his feet in the debt. He was courting a girl named Liza, who also took interest in the cases of Stephan and Marya. She

wanted to give away her property, but she could not do so as it was her father's property. Mankin supported her in her decision. It was a different kind of spiritual feeling forming inside him. Meanwhile Vassily made up an escape plan and told everything to Stephan. Vassily tried to create a havoc. He was put to confinement; it was what he wanted. He hurt himself during the escape, but he managed to escape it.

Natalya, the widow of Pyotor, was troubling herself when her husband was killed by the peasants. When the police questioned him, he felt miserable. She wanted the execution of two murders to be done quickly. But they could not execute it as the only hangman in the province was refusing to do it so. So, Natalya wrote a request letter to the Tsar to pardon them as she forgave them.

Meanwhile, Liza, the love of Mankin the Judge, was quite fond of her new way of Christian life. She confessed openly to the elder. The elder felt guilt-stricken horror, as he was sinful to cling to the monastery. So, he shut himself for three weeks and returned to denounce himself.

Vassily, after the escape from the jail, did everything he had wanted. He stole and robbed from the rich and distribute the looted to the poor. He paid off his debts and married. He even paid the police not to look for him. Finally, he was taken up. He was cheerful during the whole trial; they almost acquitted him. But sentenced to exile. He even mentioned that he would escape again.

The telegraph to the Tsar did not produce any effect. It was briefly mentioned during his lunch, he only replied "Law". The peasants were hanged with a new hangman. Tsar was preached by the elder and those words sweated him at night. Proshka was arrested again after his release. He met with Stephan in the jail. Proshka died during his incarceration. Evgeny, the shop owner of photograph, was suffering from debts and economic losses. His only hope of assistance from a rich man has been shattered as the rich man was stolen. Half a million they say. The robber was Vassily, who gave the money to the poor and the police. One day Evgeny received four hundred rubles with a note. It was Vassily who wrote to remember him as he was doing evil only for good.

Mitya finished his studies and technical school. He worked in the gold mine of Siberia and was asked to take Stephan. His associates told him that though Stephan killed seven people, he was a holy man. Stephan took care of everything for Mitya. Mitya was touched by the ways of Stephan. So, Mitya refused a more profitable position and lived a merry life. His unpleasant relation with his father became more pleasant and he tried to become close.

10. Alyosha the Pot

Alyosha was given the name "the pot", because he broke the milk pot when he was sent by his mother to some merchant. When he was young, he was teased for his large ears and nose, but never did he say anything back, he just smiled. When his elder brother was taken as a soldier, he took the position of his brother in the merchant's house. At first, they did not like him, but his uncomplaining nature attracted them. He became necessary in their day-to-day chores of the whole family. His father came to fetch money and scolded him for wearing out of his boots. He smiled only. Then he found someone who pitied him. Her name was Ustinya. He wanted to marry her. But the notion of marriage was deterred by the merchant. And his father scolded him to drop the notion off. He smiled and agreed. Then one day he was hurt in his foot and lied in the bed for three days. On the third day, he called for the priest and said goodbye to Ustinya and died.

11. Hadji Murat

The author was picking flowers in the fields mowed by the "Tartar". He was sad that he had struggled to pick the flower for several minutes and it was ragged after he was able to pick it. He then thinks about how a man destroys everything and conquered everything just for nothing and remembers a story.

Murat was traveling along the road, then he turned it to the left, and entered a house. The house received him kindly and heeded his orders. They took care of Murat very well, even though they knew that it meant death to receive during these days after the quarrel between Murat and Shamil. Sado's wife also prepared a place for him to sleep.

Two soldiers and a corporal were pacing through the forest with the moon in their back. It was like a listening post, but not exactly. It was supposed to detect the mounting of canon on these hills. They smoked for a while and conversed about the loss of poker and other things. Then they heard a soft sound behind them. It was two Tartars who came here to send a message. The corporal sent them to the military barracks.

In the military barracks, Prince Vorontsov was having a rubber with his wife Marya and a soldier named Polansky. Polansky was happy to see a woman of such beauty in Marya and went back to his barracks fun. He asked his barrack mate to wake him up at 5 before they march at 6. Prince Vorontsov told his wife that Murat has sent a message to meet them in the wood cutting ceremony and have sent a message with an emissary.

In the village, Hadji Murat was sleeping with his pistols and heard Sabo coming and told him that the village noticed his presence. So, Murat lightly went out and mounted on the horse. But the villagers came swarming with their horses. But Murat was able to leave them behind after crossing the stream. He met with his comrades, who just came back from the prince, Vorontsov. One of the soldiers of the Vorontsov's company was hurt during a friendly fire. Murat met the Vorontsov as agreed. Murat surrendered himself and offered to serve the Tsar. Vorontsov was over the moon, as Murat was the second most interested enemy of the Russia after Shamil. Vorontsov did not report the coming of Murat to his superior. He felt happy but unpleasant of that fact. But when he did report to the superior, the superior angered and accused him of using his family connections. However, the peace was established. Murat was worried that they will kill him and exile him. But they did not even take the daggers of his and his men. At the dinner, Murat only ate from the plate where Vorontsov's wife had taken a piece for the worries of poison. The private who was mistakenly shot by his own comrades died in the ward. The company wrote a letter to his family stating that the company killed a hundred of mountaineers while they received two injuries, and one killed. Another soldier died in the attack as well. He was wept by his mother and wife, who was pregnant with a clerk and glad that she can marry the clerk.

The prince Vorontsov was playing cards with the generals and his associates. It was a fun play, but someone mentioned "the rescue". It was a shameful event for the prince Vorontsov, as his battalion was cut into two by the Murat's company and nearly perished if the fresh troops had not arrived. But a Frenchman put a joke to ease the tension. Then, a letter from his son arrived stating the surrender of Murat and his spat with the general.

Murat was introduced to the old Vorontsov and their eyes met. They knew that they cannot trust each other. Murat refused to sit down citing that he would not sit in the presence of such an important person. Later that day, Murat was summoned and asked to tell his stories in a letter to Tsar. Murat told everything since he was young and the killings.

During the prayer, Murat's men argued because one of the men said that Shamil is a holy man. Then the loris realized that some of them hated the Russians and some of them still admired Shamil. Murat called him and told the rest of the stories including two letters, his military exploits, and asked him to relay to the Tsar that his family are in the hands of Shamil, and he could do nothing as long as they are in their hands.

On 12th December, Vorontsov wrote a letter to the minister of war stating that Murat was surrendered to his son, and he believed that Murat was sincere and could serve them but the fact that his family was under Shamil paralyzed him. Murat was placed with twenty cassocks, and Vorontsov could not trust him fully. But he could not lock him as it would affect the image. So, he asked for guidance how to position Murat in this state, as Murat was offering to show his loyalty in a battle.

The letter was delivered to a general near the Nicolas the empire. The general had a bad blood with Vorontsov and tried to persuade the Nicolas to send Murat to Russia. But Nicolas did not like him or his ideas, so he agreed with Vorontsov and put Murat in the front. He also ordered the raid in Chenay in January. Nicolas believed that he was a great strategist, contrary to his real abilities. He also ordered the cruel punishment of a student who revolved.

By his orders, four company raided an aoul over the river in Chechnya. They destroyed everything: crops, spring, and so on. It was the aoul that Murat had hid before he came to Russia. Sabo in the aoul was very angry at these events and wrote to the Shamil to provide assistance. Meanwhile, Murat has come to the front with escorts, a dozen cassocks. He was not to leave the fortress but can communicate with the mountaineers. The news received by him were not good. His family has suffered a lot.

Shamil's subordinates has arrested the families of Murat including his beloved son, five other small children, two wives, and his old woman. They put his son in a stinking hole of seven feet depth. Shamil was away at the front fighting in Chencney. Russians believed that they had succeeded in routing Tartars out, while Shamil believed that they outed the Russians. But they both knew that they were wrong. When Shamil returned, all greeted him with festivals and singings. He asked for the son of Murat, who did not hold any grudge against him. He asked him to write a letter to his father asking for his return, otherwise, Shamil will kill him. Meanwhile, Murat was leaving the fortress with the escorted cassocks. The inhabitants of the fortress enjoyed the nature of Murat and agreed that he was just and wise.

The situation has worsened for the Murat. All his friends who undertook the rescue of his family have refused him due to the fear of punishment from Shamil. Murat previously believed that he could easily destroy Shamil, and the transfer of his family was an easy task. But Shamil had taken his family as hostages and threatening to blind his son. Additionally, Murat, who was staying in a town with a Mosque, was called back to Tiflis for a meeting with a general. So, he lied awake and made a decision to flee and die while saving his families.

Murat run away with his nukers and killed the escorted cassocks. But he was not able to reach the river as the field surrounding it was turned into a bog from the harvest. The commander in the fortress gathered as many men as he could and searched for him. They did not find any trace. But a Tartar said that he saw six horsemen cycling in a field and stationed in the bush. They asked the Murat to yield but Murat replied with bullets. So, they fought like that for an hour. Then the Russians surrounded him and killed the Murat. Then, took his head off.

It was the death in the plowed field that I was reminded of.

Summary Written by Thura Htoo

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