



# Glimpses of India

Part I

A Baker from Goa

By Lucio Rodrigues

Lesson No. 7 \_ Mod.1 of 3\_First Flight  
Class X English Language &  
Literature

# Introduction

- ▶ This is a pen-portrait of a traditional Goan village baker
- ▶ an important place in his society
- ▶ It revolves around the relevance of a baker in the Goan culture
- ▶ dates back to the time when Portuguese ruled over the city of Goa
- ▶ The Portuguese may have left but the bread-makers continue to have an inevitable stature
- ▶ the author recalls his childhood days and their excitement on seeing the baker
- ▶ They were enthusiastic to the point that they would run to him as soon as they woke up without even brushing their teeth

# About the Author

- ▶ Prof. Lucio Rodrigues is one of the literary geniuses that Goa has produced.
- ▶ He has an authority on Goan folklore.
- ▶ Prof. Lucio Rodrigues was a visiting professor of folklore at the Indiana University, USA in 1969.
- ▶ His essays in English, as well as those translated from Konkani, were published after his death in 1973.
- ▶ It was the revised edition of this compilation, renamed Ambolim.
- ▶ As a prolific essayist, he contributed to various newspapers and magazines such as The Navhind Times, The Times of India, Goa Today and others too.

# The Time When Goa was under the Rule of the Portuguese.

- ▶ Narrator's elders often recall the time when Goa was under the rule of the Portuguese
- ▶ The importance of bakers is still maintained in their villages
- ▶ Known as 'Paders' in Goa.
- ▶ The mixers, moulders and their time-tested furnaces continue to serve
- ▶ The original ones may not exist, but their profession is being continued by their sons

# The Musical Entry of the Baker:

- ▶ The bakers come in the village in the morning
- ▶ They used to make a sound of the bamboo stick they carry
- ▶ The same thud can still be heard in some parts of the village
- ▶ The same jingling thud would wake the narrator and his friends
- ▶ Go running to him without brushing or washing their mouth
- ▶ The maid-servant of the house used to collect the loaves
- ▶ Children used to sort out the bread bangles for themselves.

# Bread- Part of the Goan Culture

- ▶ Bakery products- the part of the culture and traditions of Goa
- ▶ This culture still continues
- ▶ Different varieties of bread have different traditional value
- ▶ It is evident from its presence at every important occasion
- ▶ The special sweet bread 'Bol' - a part of marriage gifts.
- ▶ Sandwiches in engagements
- ▶ Cakes and 'Bolinhas' or coconut cookies on Christmas and other festivals
- ▶ All these occasions make the presence of a baker in every village, very essential.

# A Unique Frock of Baker

- ▶ Earlier bakers wore a unique frock of knee-length known as 'kabai'
- ▶ During the narrator's childhood days, they wore a shirt and trousers of length slightly shorter than the usual ones
- ▶ They generally collected their bills at the end of every month
- ▶ Bakery has continued to be a profitable profession

# The Narrator Recalls the Baker

- ▶ The baker acted as their friend and companion
- ▶ The baker used to visit twice a day
- ▶ The sound of his bamboo stick that woke the children up.
- ▶ The children were so excited to meet him
- ▶ The bangles were for children, loaves were for the adults
- ▶ He would go house to house
- ▶ Greet the ladies before handing them over the loaves.

# Children's Curiosity

- ▶ The parents would scold the children
- ▶ Make them stand aside
- ▶ Climb a bench or the wall to peep into the basket
- ▶ They did not even bother to brush their teeth
- ▶ They considered brushing unnecessary
- ▶ The hot tea could effortlessly wash their mouth
- ▶ Animals like the tiger never brushed their teeth.

# Monthly Record of Bills

- ▶ The baker had a way of making monthly record of bills
- ▶ Mark on a wall using a pencil
- ▶ Collection of the money at the end of the month

# A Profitable Profession

- ▶ Bakery has continued to be a profitable profession
- ▶ Managing to keep baker's families joyous and prosperous
- ▶ The baker's family and workers have always been happy and joyous.
- ▶ The baker was usually fat
- ▶ A proof that he had a lot to eat and hence, a rich person.
- ▶ Someone with a well-built body is compared to a baker.

# Difficult Words

- ▶ Reminiscing nostalgically- thinking fondly of the past
- ▶ Moulders- a person who moulds dough into a shape
- ▶ Furnaces- an enclosed structure in which materials can be heated to very high temperatures
- ▶ Herald- announcing
- ▶ Pader- word for baker in Portuguese language
- ▶ Jangling- make or cause to make a light metallic ringing sound
- ▶ staff - stick
- ▶ Rebuke- an expression of disapproval; a scolding
- ▶ Parapet- railing, a low protective wall
- ▶ bangles- here, refers to the bread in the shape of a bangle called 'Kankon'
- ▶ bolinhas - another name for coconut cookies

THANK YOU

