



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
- ▶ Heralding- announcing
- ▶ Pader- word for baker in Portuguese language
- ▶ Jingling- 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

