

THE SNAKE AND THE MIRROR

Vaikom Muhammad Basheer

Summary

The story 'The Snake and The Mirror' is written by Vaikom Muhammad Basheer. It is about the lonely life of a doctor who encounters a snake. Basheer's universal love towards all creatures is revealed in this story.

A few doctors were discussing about snakes. Then a homeopath told them how a snake had coiled around him. It was a hot summer night about 10 O'clock. After supper the doctor returned to his rented room. It was not electrified. He could hear the sound of rats.

He was thinking of marrying a fat lady doctor who had plenty of money and a good medical practice. Suddenly a fat snake landed on his shoulder. He couldn't move or cry. It coiled around his left arm. Its hood was spread out. Its head was only four inches from his face.

After some time, it looked into the mirror on the table and saw its reflection. The doctor thought that it was thinking of improving its beauty. Then it fell into his lap and moved towards the mirror. He got up from the chair and ran out. He reached his friend's house. He smeared his body with oil and took a bath.

The next morning, he came back to his room to shift his things. But nothing was there. Some thief had stolen everything except his dirty vest. Basheer's characters never hurt each other; they co-exist.

പാമ്പും കണ്ണാടിയും എന്ന, വൈക്കം മുഹമ്മദ് ബഷീറിന്റെ കഥ, ഒറ്റയ്ക്കു ജീവിക്കുന്ന ഒരു ഡോക്ടർ ഒരു ഭീതിപ്പെടുത്തുന്ന വിരുന്നുകാരനെ അഭിമുഖീകരിക്കുന്നതിനേക്കുറിച്ചാണ്. പേടിപ്പെടുത്തുന്ന ഈ അനുഭവം രസകരമായി വിവരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ബഷീറിന്റെ, എല്ലാ ജീവജാലങ്ങളോടുമുള്ള സ്നേഹം ഇതിലൂടെ വെളിവാക്കപ്പെടുന്നു.

കുറേ ഡോക്ടർമാർ പാമ്പുകളെക്കുറിച്ച് ചർച്ച ചെയ്യുകയായിരുന്നു. ആരുടെയെങ്കിലും ശരീരത്തിൽ പാമ്പ് ചുറ്റിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്ന് ഒരു ഹോമിയോ ഡോക്ടർ ചോദിച്ചു. എല്ലാവരും നിശബ്ദരായി. ഡോക്ടർ തന്റെ കഥ തുടർന്നു. ചുട്ടുള്ള ഒരു വേനൽക്കാല രാത്രി പത്തു മണി സമയം. ഹോട്ടലിൽ നിന്ന് അത്താഴം കഴിച്ച് അദ്ദേഹം വാടകമുറിയിലേക്ക് തിരികെ വന്നു. മുറി വൈദ്യുതീകരച്ചതല്ലായിരുന്നു. എലികൾ ഓടുന്ന ശബ്ദം അവന് കേൾക്കുവാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞു. പെട്ടെന്ന് ഒരു വലിയ ശബ്ദം കേട്ടു. ഒരു വലിയ പാമ്പ് അവന്റെ തോളിൽ വന്നു പതിച്ചു. അവന് അനങ്ങുവാനോ കരയുവാനോ സാധിച്ചില്ല. പാമ്പ് അവന്റെ ഇടതു

കൈയിൽ ചുറ്റി. അതിന്റെ പത്തി വിടർന്നിരുന്നു. അതിന്റെ തല അവന്റെ മുഖത്തു നിന്നും നാലിഞ്ചു മാത്രം ദൂരെയായിരുന്നു.

പാമ്പ് ഒരു കണ്ണാടിയിൽ നോക്കി അതിന്റെ പ്രതിബിംബം കണ്ടു. ഡോക്ടർ വിചാരിച്ചു, അത് അതിന്റെ സൗന്ദര്യം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനേക്കുറിച്ച് ചിന്തിക്കുകയാണെന്ന്. അപ്പോൾ അത് അവന്റെ മടിയിലേക്ക് വീണു. കണ്ണാടിയുടെ അരികിലേക്കു നീങ്ങി. ഡോക്ടർ കസേരയിൽ നിന്നെഴുന്നേറ്റ് പുറത്തേക്കോടി. ഒരു സുഹൃത്തിന്റെ വീട്ടിൽ എത്തി. ശരീരം മുഴുവൻ എണ്ണ പുരട്ടി കുളിച്ചു. പിറ്റേന്നു രാവിലെ, മുറിയിലെ സാധനങ്ങൾ എടുത്തു മാറ്റുവാൻ അവൻ അവിടെച്ചെന്നു. പക്ഷേ അവിടെ ഒന്നും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നില്ല. അവന്റെ മുഷിഞ്ഞ അടിവസ്ത്രം ഒഴികെ ബാക്കി എല്ലാം ഏതോ കള്ളൻ മോഷ്ടിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. കള്ളന് വൃത്തിബോധം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. പിന്നീടൊരിക്കലും ഡോക്ടർ ആ പാമ്പിനെ കണ്ടിട്ടില്ല.

Questions and Answers

1. What was the topic that came up for discussion between the doctor and his friends? (The topic was snakes.)
2. What does the expression 'a full-blooded cobra' suggest? (A dangerous and poisonous cobra with its hood spread out.)
3. 'The sound was a familiar one'. What was the sound? (The familiar sound was that of rats moving on the roof of the house.)
4. 'In those days I was a great admirer of beauty...' Pick out phrases and expressions from the story to justify the statement. (The following expressions justify the statement.
 - '.....took a close look at my face in the mirror.'
 - 'I would shave daily and grow a thin moustache to look more handsome.')
5. What are the two 'important' and 'earth-shaking' decisions that the doctor takes while looking into the mirror? ((i) He would shave daily and grow a thin moustache. (ii) He would always keep an attractive smile on his face to look more handsome.)
6. 'Again came that noise from above'. Did the doctor pay much attention to the noise? Why? (The doctor didn't pay much attention to the noise. He thought that it was the sound of rats running across the beam.)
7. What kind of a woman does the doctor want to marry? Why? (The doctor wants to marry a fat and rich lady doctor. If there is a quarrel, she should not be able to run after him and catch him.)
8. What happened when the doctor was sitting on his chair? (When the doctor was sitting on his chair a snake fell on his shoulder.)

9. How did the doctor react when the snake landed on him? (When the snake landed on him, the doctor was frozen with fear.)
10. Why did the doctor sit in the chair 'like a stone image in flesh'? (The doctor sat in the chair 'like a stone image in flesh' because he was frozen with fear.)
11. In the story the snake is compared to three objects. What are they? ((i) rubber tube (ii) leaden rod (iii) a human being.)
12. Why did he feel that he was a stupid doctor? (He felt that he was a stupid doctor because he hadn't kept any medicines in the room in case of an emergency.)
13. 'I was suddenly a man of flesh and blood'. What does the doctor mean by this statement? (Life returned to him and he was able to think clearly.)
14. Why did the doctor run to his friend's house? Did the snake harm the doctor? Why? (The doctor ran to his friend's house to escape from the snake. No, the snake did not harm the doctor. It thought that he was a stone image.)
15. '... the thief had left behind one thing as a final insult!' What was the insult? (The thief had left behind his dirty vest. The thief wanted to tell the doctor that he should have a better sense of cleanliness.)

Let's revisit

Activity 1

Pick out sentences from the story 'The Snake and the Mirror' and complete the table below. These sentences tell you the condition of the narrator. Some hints are given.

- i. **Was afraid of the snake.**
 - I was turned to a stone
 - (a) I held my breath.
 - (b) The room was filled with darkness.
 - (c) I sat there like a stone image in the flesh.
 - (d) I wrote the word "Oh God" in my imagination.
 - (e) Death lurked four inches away.
 - (f) I didn't keep any medicines in the room.
- ii. **Was proud of his appearance.**
 - I looked into the mirror and smiled.
 - (a) I believed in making myself look handsome.
 - (b) I picked up the comb and ran it through my hair.
 - (c) I adjusted the parting of the hair so that it looked straight and neat.
 - (d) I decided I would always keep attractive smile on my face to look more handsome.
 - (e) I was proud of being a doctor.
 - (f) I was proud of being a bachelor then.

Activity 2

The story is about a frightening incident narrated in a humorous way. What makes it humorous?

The writer has made use of certain striking contrasts in the story to bring about humour.

Pick out such expressions from the story and write them.

A) (i) The kind of person the doctor was

(The doctor was a less handsome bachelor.)

(ii) The kind of person he wanted to be (He wanted to be handsome and married.)**B (i) The person he wanted to marry** (a fat lady doctor.)

(ii) The person he actually married (a lean woman who could run like a sprinter.)

C (i) His thoughts when he looked into the mirror (I have to make my presence felt, I have to keep a smile.)

(ii) His thoughts when the snake coiled around his arm (If I made the slightest movement, it would strike me. I haven't keep any medicines in my room. I am but a poor, foolish and stupid doctor.)

Now, based on what you have written, prepare short paragraphs on the **use of contrasts in the story** to bring about the humour.

USE OF CONTRASTS IN THE STORY

A. (i) The kind of person the doctor is [Same as the character sketch of the homeopath Q. VI in the Exam Based Questions.]

(ii) The kind of person he wanted to be- He was a great admirer of beauty and he believed in making himself handsome. He laid great emphasis on the fact that he was unmarried and a doctor. He was pleased with his appearance. He decided to shave daily and grow a thin moustache to look more handsome.

B. (i) The person he wanted to marry - He wanted to marry a lady doctor who had plenty of money and a good medical practice. He wanted a fat wife so that whenever he made a mistake his wife would not be able to run after him and catch him.

(ii) The person he actually marries - He married a thin and slender lady who could run like a sprinter.

C. (i) His thoughts when he looks into the mirror.

I really appreciate myself. How good looking am I! I have to keep up this beauty. Let me take a close look at my face. I will shave daily and grow a thin moustache to look even more handsome. I will keep smiling. How attractive my smile is!

(ii) His thoughts when the snake is coiled around his arm- My God! My body has turned into a stone. At this moment, I feel the presence of God near me. I will write the name of God in bright letters. What a pain in my left arm where the snake has coiled. It is raising its hood. How horrible to look at! If it bites me, I do not even have any medicines in my room. How stupid I am! How short this life is! My beauty, wealth, fame, pride and everything will vanish now. O God! If you save me I will lead a good life.

Activity 3

In the story the snake didn't harm the homeopath. The homeopath in turn didn't hurt it. Keeping **Basheer's vision on nature and its beings**, comment on this story.

Vaikom Muhammed Basheer was a humanist who considered other creatures on the earth as his fellow beings. He thought that all living beings on the earth has the same right as human beings to live and survive. The book written by Basheer, 'Bhoomiyude Avakashikal', is a clear example of his love towards nature and the other creatures in the world. The co-existence of man and other beings was his doctrine.

The story 'The Snake and the Mirror' also shows his concern towards the other creatures in a humorous way. The homeopath shares his room with the rats. He never tries to hurt any of the creatures that lived there. The cobra coiled around his body. The author stood still and never tried to disturb the activities of the cobra. It did what it wanted to and moved away. Instead of hurting or disturbing the cobra the doctor escaped from the room. Everything is presented in a funny way. The universal love towards the other creatures is beautifully depicted in this lesson.

Extended Activity

Collect similar stories in English or Malayalam showing the harmony of nature

E.g. ഭൂമിയുടെ അവകാശികൾ-Basheer.

EXAM BASED QUESTIONS

I. Read the passage and answer the questions.

A. It was a hot summer night about the kerosene lamp on the table. (Text para 2)

1. What is the time mentioned here?
2. Where did he have his meal?
3. What was the familiar sound that he heard?
4. With whom did he share the room?
5. What did he use for light, instead of electricity?

B. One feels tempted to look into a mirror Again I heard that sound from above. (Text para 6)

1. What is one tempted to do?
2. Where did he take a look?
3. What was his profession?
4. Why did he take much care in beauty those days?
5. What is the word 'parting' related to?

C. The doctor replied, "I ran and ran. as a final insult!" (Text para 20)

1. Where did the doctor run to?
2. What did the doctor do after reaching his friend's house?
3. How did the thief enter the doctor's house?
4. Why did the doctor take his friend and some others along with him?
5. What was the only thing that the thief did not take?

II. NARRATIVE

- A.** After reading the story 'The Snake and the Mirror', you go home. How would you **narrate** the story to your brother?
- B.** The doctor himself narrates everything to his mother at home. How would that **narration** be?
- C.** **Narrate** the experience of the doctor in 'The Snake and the Mirror'.

III. SPEECH

After the encounter with the snake, the doctor understood that our pride, money, degrees, even life and everything may disappear in a moment. He started to organize meetings and speak on the shortness of life. Prepare a **speech** for one such function.

IV. WRITE UP

- A.** The doctor in the story 'The Snake and the Mirror' usually presents things in a humorous manner. Analyse the humorous elements in the story and prepare a **write up** describing how humour adds to the beauty of the story.
- B.** Prepare a **write-up** on the doctor's encounter with the snake and the theft that took place there-after.
- C.** Write a **paragraph** on the decisions taken by the doctor.

V. REVIEW

Write a **review** of the story 'The Snake and the Mirror'.

VI. CHARACTER-SKETCH

Prepare a **character-sketch** of the homeopath.

VII. NEWS-REPORT

A. Suppose the homeopath in the lesson 'The Snake and the Mirror', died of snake-bite and the news came in the newspaper. Prepare the **news-report**.

B. Prepare a **news-report** of the doctor's encounter with the snake and the theft that took place there-after.

VIII. DIARY- ENTRY.

A. The Homoeopath managed to reach his friend's house after the terrible incident. He was unable to sleep that night. He jotted down his feelings in his diary. Write the likely **diary- entry**.

B. Write the **thoughts** of the snake when it looked into the mirror.

C. Write the **thoughts** of the doctor when he looked into the mirror.

D. Write the **thoughts** of the doctor when the snake coiled around his arm.

Additional Question for self-practice.

When his belongings were stolen, the young doctor sat alone in despair and wrote his diary. Write the **diary**?

IX. CONVERSATION

A. The homoeopath narrates his experience with the snake to one of his friends, who is a journalist in a leading news paper. Prepare the likely **conversation** between the homoeopath and the journalist.

B. Write a **telephonic conversation** between the doctor and his mother, after his encounter with the snake.

C. Imagine that you meet the homeopath after he has changed his stay from the rented house where he had encountered the snake. Write the likely **conversation** between the homeopath and you.

X. LETTER

A. The doctor in the story 'The Snake and the Mirror', writes a complaint to the Sub-Inspector of Police about the burglary (theft) that took place in his house. Write the likely **letter**.

B. Write the possible letter that the doctor might have written to his close friend/mother.

Additional Question for self-practice.

The thief happened to read about the homeopath in the news paper. He writes a letter to the doctor. How would that **letter** be?

XI. NOTICE

A. The Police got strong evidence that it was Bandit Chor who stole the things from the doctor's house. But they could not catch him. Prepare a **look out notice** to be put up in public places.

B. The English Club of your school has decided to stage a play based on the story 'The Snake and the Mirror.' Draft a **notice** inviting all teachers and students to watch the play.

XII. PROFILE

Prepare a **profile of Vaikom Muhammad Basheer.**

Birth : 1908, Jan 19, Kerala.

Known as : Beypore Sultan, humanist, freedom fighter, novelist, short story writer.

Style : Disarmingly down-to-earth style made him popular among literary critics as well as the common man.

Works : Balyakalasakhi, Shabdangal, Pathummayude Aadu, Mathilukal, Ntuppappakkoranendarnnu, Janmadinam and Anargha Nimisham.

Awards : Padmashri 1982

Death : 1994, July 5.

ANSWERS - EXAM BASED QUESTIONS

I. A. 1. The time was ten 'O' clock at night (10 p. m.)

2. He had his meals from a restaurant.

3. It was the sound of rats from the roof.

4. He shared the room with the rats.

5. kerosene lamp.

B. 1. One is tempted to look into the mirror.

2. He took a look into the mirror.

3. He was a homeo doctor.

4. He was unmarried and was in search of a wife.

5. Hair.

C: 1. The doctor ran to his friend's house.

2. He applied oil on his body and took a bath.

3. The thief entered through the door which was left open.

4. Firstly he feared that the snake might be still in the room. Secondly he wanted to shift his things from the room.

5. His dirty vest.

II. A. Answer is same as the Summary.

B. Write the summary in first person narrative.

C. Answer is same as the Summary.

III. SPEECH

Ladies and gentlemen,

A warm good morning to all of you.

Today I stand before you, not as a homeopath but as a person who likes to tell you about the shortness of life. A few days ago I was thinking of marrying a rich lady-doctor and improving my financial status. Then I had an encounter with a hooded cobra, in my room. It fell on me and coiled around my arm. Its hood was only four inches from my face. I was frozen with fear. I could not shout or move. I saw death before me. As I was going to die, I thought of the meaninglessness of pride, money, degrees and fame. How foolish we are when we go after these things! We keep enmity to our neighbours or our near ones for silly reasons or due to misunderstandings. After all, can we take our wealth and land to the other world? No. We go empty-handed. All of you just imagine, how you are going to lie in the coffin. Our hands will be empty. If we do good, so many people will come for the funeral and speak some good words. But if we do evil, people will hate us even after our death.

So let us try to do good to our neighbours and our near ones. We must behave to our friends as they will be our enemies tomorrow. We must behave to our enemies, as they will be our friends tomorrow. Then we cannot do any harm to others. Let me conclude my words.

Thank you.

IV. A. HUMOROUS ELEMENTS IN THE STORY

The doctor in the story 'The Snake and the Mirror' is a humorous character created by Vaikom Muhammed Basheer. There are many humorous elements which add to the beauty of the story.

In the beginning of the story we read 'rats and I shared the room'. The part which tells of his meagre life is also humorous. As the story moves on we see the doctor thinking of marrying a fat lady-doctor who had plenty of money and a good medical practice. Another humorous part is which tells of the snake looking into the mirror. The most attractive humorous description is the one which tells how the thief had left behind the dirty vests as a final insult. (Now add the summary from the second paragraph onwards here.)

B. Answer is same as the Summary.

C. Answer is same as **Activity 2 C ii.**

V. Answer is same as the Summary.

VI. THE HOMEOPATH

The homeopath appears in the story 'The Snake and the Mirror' written by Vaikom Muhammad Basheer. He is able to find humour in every aspect of life. He was a handsome bachelor. He had just started his practice. His earnings were meagre. So he was very stingy. He had only sixty rupees in his suitcase. He had only one coat and some shirts and dhotis. He took for rent, a non-electrified room. It was full of rats. He was a man of self esteem and an admirer of his own beauty. Even when he opened a book to study, he was tempted to look into the mirror. He wanted to make himself handsome by shaving daily, and keeping a smile on his face. When a snake fell on him, he was frozen with fear. He was not at all courageous. That is why, the following day he came along with some other men, to his room. He has a sense of humour. He narrates the encounter with the snake in a humorous way.

**VII. A. NEWS REPORT
A Homeopath Dies of Snake-Bite**

**Staff Reporter
20 June 1960**

Vaikom: An unmarried homeopath who was living in a rented house here, died of snake-bite lastnight. He was practicing here for the past three months. It was an irony that, he had no medicine in his room, at the time of casualty. The body was moved to the medical college for post-mortem. It will be displayed for the public to view, in the Govt. Homeo Hospital Vaikom, from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. tomorrow. The burial will take place at 11. am at his native place- Edappally in Cochin.

**B. NEWS REPORT
Robbery in a Homeopath's House**

**Staff Reporter
20 June 1960**

Vaikom: The people of Vaikom witnessed a new kind of robbery in a homeopath's house here last night. A cobra entered his room last night at about 10 p.m. and the doctor was forced to run to his friend's house for life. When he returned in the morning, he discovered that everything from his house had been stolen. He has lodged a complaint about the burglary to the Vaikom Police. "We doubt that some snake-charmer is behind it. This may be a new method of robbery. We will find the burglar and redeem the lost things and money as soon as possible", said the police.

VIII.A. (Hints for diary writing are given on page 88)

DIARY

15 June 1960 Thursday 8 p.m.

Dear Diary,

An Unforgettable Day!

Unbelievable! Spending half an hour with a snake on my shoulder and still alive! How horrible it was! If I had moved a little, I would have died. How proud was I regarding my beauty, job, status etc. All vanished in a moment. What a foolish doctor am I! I did not have any medicine in my room to cure myself. In spite of thanking God for creating me as handsome and educated, I was proud. It is a reminder from God. I have to avoid pride and greed. I have to accept myself as poor and ordinary. How many times did I call the name 'God'! I think, the snake resembles my serpentine thoughts! It makes me proud and greedy. It is an eye-opener to me. I should lead a sincere life. I should dedicate my service to the poor. I have to be satisfied with what I have. Pomp and vanity won't help us at the moments of danger. Today onwards I will be a changed personality. Thank You God for having saved my life!

Muhammed.

B. THE THOUGHTS OF THE SNAKE

Oh! How wonderful! How handsome am I! This is the first time that I view a mirror. How royal my appearance is! The other cobras in my area haven't got this opportunity. How unlucky they are! I have to come here every day to enjoy my beauty. I will look more handsome if I grow moustache. Using eye-shadow will be more effective. If I wear a vermilion-spot on my forehead I will be the most handsome snake in this world. By the way, where is that man? He has escaped. He was frozen with fear when he saw me. I would bite him if he moved. A poor foolish doctor! What a coward he is!

C. Answer is same as **Activity 2 C i.**

D. Answer is same as **Activity 2 C ii.**

IX A CONVERSATION

- Friend : Why do you look so worried?
- Doctor : A snake fell on me.
- Friend : What kind of snake?
- Doctor : A hooded cobra. It coiled around my arm. Its hood was only four inches from my face.
- Friend : Did you cry?
- Doctor : No I couldn't cry. I was frozen.
- Friend : How did you escape?
- Doctor : It moved to the mirror and went on admiring its beauty.
- Friend : Can a snake admire its beauty?
- Doctor : If it did not see the mirror, you could attend my burial.
- Friend : Thank God! Anyway this is very interesting. I shall prepare a feature for my news paper.
- Doctor : Are you going to publish it?
- Friend : Yes. I'm going to publish it.
- Doctor : I'll become famous.
- Friend : I too will become famous.

B. TELEPHONIC CONVERSATION

Doctor : Is it 7034361000.
 Mother : Yes, son, it is your mom.
 Why are you so scared?
 Doctor : A snake coiled around my arm.
 Mother : What kind of snake?
 Doctor : A cobra!
 Mother : My God! Did it attack you?
 Doctor : No, mom. It spared me.
 Mother : What did it do then?
 Doctor : It moved to the mirror.
 Mother : That room is not a safe place. You have to take a concrete building for rent.
 Doctor : We shall decide those things later. Now I am coming home.

C. CONVERSATION

Homeopath : Good morning!
 You : Good morning! How is your new lodging?
 Homeopath : It's a nice place but a bit costlier?
 You : Are there rats in that room?
 Homeopath : There are no rats. Do you like to come there?
 You : Not now. I will come later. Do you keep any medicines there?
 Homeopath : I learned a lesson. Now I keep medicines in my room.
 You : What about your marriage?
 Homeopath : I'm seriously thinking about it.
 You : The bell has gone sir, we shall meet again later.

X. A. LETTER

Dr. Muhammad
 Muhammad Manzil
 Thalayolaparambu
 25 June 1960
 The Sub Inspector of Police
 Thalayolaparambu

Subj: Complaint about the burglary at my room. Reg.
 Dear Sir,

I write this letter to lodge a complaint about the burglary that took place in my rented room last night. Since a cobra entered my room last night, I was forced to go to my friend's house. When I returned in the morning, I discovered that everything from my house had been stolen. I doubt that some snake-charmer is behind it. This may be a new method of burglary. I request you to take necessary action to find the burglar and to redeem the lost things and money.

Yours faithfully

Sd/-

Dr. Muhammad

B. LETTER

Thalayolaparambu
 21 June 1960

Dear Navas,

How are you? Hope you are fine. Last night I really wished for your presence here. A full-hooded cobra coiled around my arm. It was only four inches from my face. I wanted to run away but I couldn't move. I was frozen with fear. I was sure to die. If it bit me! I had no medicines in my room! But fortunately it noticed the mirror and spared me. I ran to a friend's house. This morning I came back with some men to move my things from there. But everything has been stolen. I have lodged a complaint in the Vaikom Police Station. You have to be very careful in and out. There are many snakes and thieves around. Be careful. I remain.

With Love

Muhammad Yasin

**XI. A. LOOK OUT NOTICE
KERALA POLICE
MOST WANTED BURGLAR**

The most wanted burglar Bandit Chor who broke into a homeopath's house last night at Thalayolaparambu, has been absconding. Those who help the police to catch him will be awarded Rs. 5,000.

Kottayam

25 June 1960

S/d

Supdt. of Police

B. NOTICE**Govt High School Kannur
Staging of the play 'The Snake and the Mirror'**

Dear friends,

The English Club of Govt. High School Kannur has decided to stage the play 'The Snake and the Mirror', on Monday, 24th January 2021, at 3.00 p.m. in the school auditorium. It is a play prepared by the members of the English Club, based on the story 'The Snake and the Mirror', written by Vaikom Muhammad Basheer. There will be a public function before the staging of the play. The famous film director Sri Adoor Gopalakrishnan will inaugurate the function.

Date : 24th January 2021

Time : 3 p.m.

Venue : School Auditorium

All are Welcome!

Kannur
 10 Jan 2021

Sd/
 Secretary
 English Club

Programme

Prayer Song : School Choir
 Welcome Speech : School Leader
 Presidential Address : PTA President
 Inaugural Address : Sri. Adoor Gopalakrishnan
 Felicitations : (1) Principal
 : (2) HM
 Vote of Thanks : Secretary, English Club
 National Anthem.

XII. VAIKOM MUHAMMAD BASHEER

Vaikom Muhammad Basheer is fondly remembered as 'Bey pore Sultan'. He is a humanist, freedom fighter, novelist and short story writer. He hails from Kerala in South India. He was born in 1908. He is noted for his disarmingly down- to- earth style of writing, that made him equally popular among literary critics as well as the common man. His notable works include '*Balyakalasakhi*', '*Shabdangal*', '*PathummayudeAadu*', '*Mathilukal*', '*Ntuppuppakkoranendarnnu*', '*Janma Dinam*' and '*Anargha Nimisham*'. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1982. He died in 1994.

KELTA