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Class 11 English (Snapshot) Notes

THE GHAT OF THE ONLY
WORLD

Key Notes and Important Questions with Answers

6 The Ghat of the only World

-Amitav Ghosh

Poet Shahid Ali and the writer Amitav Ghosh were friends. Shahid was suffering from Cancer, some fourteen months and the beginning of the story. He was from Srinagar, Kashmir. He studied in Delhi. He was an academician, a creative writer and a very popular and learned teacher of English Literature. He settled in America. Once staying in Brooklyn, in Shahid's neighborhood, Amitav soon discovered that they have a great deal in common. Shahid asked Amitav to write about him after his death. To fulfill his wish Amitav Ghosh used to keep a record of his Conversations. On phone and which they meet each other. The Ghat of the only world was written to internalize him to breathe life into their unbroken friendship. Amitav kept his promise.

Q.1. Who was Shahid?

Ans. Shahid was from Srinagar, Kashmir. He studied in Delhi. He was an academician, a creative writer and a very popular and learned teacher of English literature. He settled in America. He was a gregarious being. There was never an evening when there wasn't a party in his living room. He suffered from brain tumour.

Q.2. What promise did the writer make with Shahid? How did he fulfil it?

Ans. Writer promised Shahid to fulfil his wish to write something about life after his death. To fulfil his wish the writer, Amitav, used to keep a record of all the conversations and meetings he had with Shahid. This record helped him to fulfil his promise.

1. When did Shahid talk about his approaching death for the first time? What had happened to him?
2. How did Shahid want to be remembered after his death?
3. What promise did the writer make with Shahid? How did he fulfil it?
4. What was common between Shahid and the author?
5. Why did Shahid have a special passion for Kashmiri food in Pandit style?
6. Give two instances from the text to show that Shahid was gregarious by nature?
7. How did Shahid's upbringing help him in developing a secular outlook?
8. How did author feel after Shahid's death?
9. What different aspects of Shahid's character do you gather from the Lesson "The Ghat of the Only World"?
10. What is meant by 'diaspora'? What do you learn about Indian diaspora from the lesson 'The ghat of the only world'?
11. Justify the title of the Lesson 'The Ghat of the only World'?