



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH (2025-26)
CLASS – XI
QB ON ADVENTURE

SUMMARY

The Journey to Bombay

Professor Gangadharpanth Gaitonde boards the Jijamata Express from Pune to Bombay, observing the familiar and changing landscapes. As a historian, he plans to research historical events in a library in Bombay and consult his colleague, Rajendra Deshpande. The journey sets the stage for his adventure, blending ordinary travel with anticipation of discovering historical truths.

Arrival and Discovery

Upon reaching Bombay, Gangadharpanth is surprised to find an alternate historical reality: the East India Company is still operational, and the Marathas have secured a significant victory at the Battle of Panipat. The cityscape and institutions reflect a history that differs from the one he knew, highlighting the story's central theme of "what if" scenarios in history.

Research and Investigation

Determined to understand this alternate history, Gangadharpanth visits the Town Hall library and studies historical texts, including his own works. He discovers the crucial moment in history where the Marathas' victory altered the political landscape of India. This research confirms the shift in events and emphasizes the role of small changes in shaping history.

The Catastrophic Experience

While exploring, Gangadharpanth experiences a bizarre, two-day gap in reality, which he later discusses with Rajendra. Rajendra explains the experience using catastrophe theory and quantum ideas, suggesting that Gangadharpanth temporarily witnessed an alternative reality. This section blends science and history, showing how a single event can alter outcomes drastically.

Realizations and Reflection

At the end of his adventure, Gangadharpanth reflects on the importance of seemingly minor events in history and the unpredictability of reality. He also realizes that some experiences cannot be fully rationalized but provide valuable insight into history, science, and human perception. This section ties together the story's philosophical and scientific undertones.

CHARACTER SKETCHES

1. Professor Gangadharpanth Gaitonde

Professor Gaitonde is a dedicated historian with a keen intellect and an insatiable curiosity. He is methodical and deeply committed to understanding history, but he also has a sense of adventure and wonder. His encounter with an alternate reality challenges his perception of history and reality, showing his openness to new ideas and scientific reasoning.

2. Rajendra Deshpande

Rajendra is a rational and analytical thinker who helps Professor Gaitonde make sense of his

extraordinary experience. Through his explanations of catastrophe theory and quantum ideas, he bridges science and history, guiding the professor to interpret the events logically while appreciating their fantastical nature.

3. Khan Sahib

Khan Sahib is an Anglo-Indian railway official who provides Gangadhar Pant with guidance and insights into the world he encounters. His courteous and informative demeanor helps the professor navigate unfamiliar surroundings and understand the context of his journey.

4. Vishwasrao and Bhausaheb

Though historical figures, in the story they represent pivotal points in the alternate history experienced by Gangadhar Pant. Vishwasrao's near-death and Bhausaheb's bravery influence the outcome of the Battle of Panipat, highlighting how individual actions can shape history.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What is the main idea of *The Adventure*?

The story explores how a single historical event can change the course of history, blending elements of science, alternate realities, and critical thinking through Professor Gaitonde's experience.

2. Who are the key characters in the story?

The main characters are Professor Gangadhar Pant Gaitonde, Rajendra Deshpande, Khan Sahib, and historical figures like Vishwasrao and Bhausaheb, who play roles in the alternate history narrative.

3. How does the story relate history to science?

It connects historical events, such as the Battle of Panipat, to concepts from catastrophe theory and quantum theory, showing how small changes can lead to very different outcomes.

4. What skills can students develop by studying this story?

Students enhance reading comprehension, critical thinking, analytical reasoning, and storytelling skills, while also learning to explore imaginative and hypothetical scenarios.

5. How does the story blend science and imagination?

The story uses scientific theories like quantum mechanics to explain extraordinary events that seem imaginary. It shows that imagination and science can coexist to explore new possibilities and alternate realities.

6. How did the theory of quantum mechanics help Gaitonde understand his experience?

Quantum mechanics, especially the idea of lack of determinism and multiple realities, helped Gaitonde rationalize that he may have visited a parallel universe. This made his extraordinary experience understandable scientifically.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Why could Gangadhar Pant not help but compare the country he knew with what he witnessed around him?

Gangadhar Pant Gaitonde was a professor of history. He was teleported to another reality by transitioning from reality to an alternate one. In the other reality, the Marathas won the battle of Panipat, which changed the course of subsequent historical events and resulted in a

different India. So, Professor Gaitonde could not recognise the new country in which he was wandering, and he did not find any similarity between what he was experiencing and what he had been living in. In that reality, India was never colonised by British forces. Rather, the East India Company remained a business body influencing large cities like Bombay or Calcutta. India was never divided into two countries, and people could travel to Peshawar by train. Bombay was under the governance of the Company, and the city was different in the professor's eyes. He found Victoria Terminus remarkably neat and clean, while the employees were only Anglo-Indian or British. When he wandered along a road, he found a different set of houses and shops reflecting the Aglow culture. So, he could not compare the two countries with their two different realities.

2. Briefly explain the following statements. “You have passed through a fantastic experience: or more correctly, a catastrophic experience.”

Professor Gaitonde had an unusual experience. He claimed that he visited an alternative world where the course of history differed from the known world. He shared his experience with Rajendra Deshpande and asked for an explanation. Rajendra first thought it to be an image of professor Gaitonde. But after seeing Gaitonde's proof, Rajendra took the matter seriously and told him that he could think of two theories. His second theory was that the professor had gone through a catastrophic experience. He explained the quantum theory to the professor and stated that one could not determine where a free electron would be at the micro level. The professor said there is a 'lack of determinism in quantum theory. Rajendra further explained that such a transition might take place at the macro level. According to him, the professor was in the same world and in the same timeline, but he experienced two different realities. Though he could not explain how he was teleported from one reality to another. So, he called the professor's experience a 'catastrophic experience'.

3. In an alternate reality, what was the significance of the Maratha victory at Panipat?

The battle of Panipat, which created a schism in Indian history and two distinct realities, was Maratha's victory. The books the Professor studied in the Town Hall library explained the impact of the Maratha Empire's victory on India's politics, economy, and society. The Maratha Empire got more important all over India. That reduced the influence of the East India Company, and they continued to have an impact in large urban centres like Bombay or Calcutta. Maratha rulers or Peshwas became the de facto or actual rulers. They understood the importance of science and technology and took help from the East India Company to develop India. Slowly, India started to get influenced by the ideologies of the West, and the country was inclined toward democracy. Peshwas lost their enterprises, and most of their governance was replaced by democratic bodies. Though, the Shahenshah of Delhi survived the transition to democracy. His chair remained as the de jure ruler. The central parliament did the actual work, and Shahenshah of Delhi supported these activities by giving his stamps to them.

4. How did Professor Gaitonde come back to the world he knew?

Professor Gaitonde spent his whole day in a library and then stayed in a guest house. He went for a walk in the nearby Azad Maidan after dinner. The professor noticed a crowd and the sound of a lecture coming from the ground. He understood a speech was being given to people and came closer to watch it. He found out that a chair on the stage was unoccupied. It was the president's

chair. In that reality, people have abolished the rule of having a president in a meeting. It is because they did not like to hear the vote of thanks or long introductions. Professor Gaikonde protested it and said the meeting remains incomplete without a president. So, he came to the stage and started to give a speech. The listeners became agitated and soon began to throw eggs and raw bananas. But the professor continued his speech, and the general public forcibly expelled him from the stage. Then, the professor vanished into the crowd. The next day, he was found in Azad maidan, in reality, he knew, and he rushed to Rajendra Deshpande to share his experience after he returned to his actual reality.

REASONING AND ASSERTION BASED QUESTIONS

Question 1

Assertion (A): Professor Gaitonde is initially shocked to find the East India Company alive and flourishing in Bombay.

Reason (R): He had expected to see an independent India where the company was no more than a historical memory.

- a. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b. Both A and R are not true
- c. Both A and R are true and R is not the correct explanation of A
- d. A is true but R is not true

Answer: a. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

Explanation: Professor Gaitonde, as a historian from his original reality, knows that the East India Company ceased to exist in the 19th century. His shock is a direct result of seeing the complete opposite, proving that the history he knows has been altered in this new world.

Question 2

Assertion (A): Professor Gaitonde's lecture at Azad Maidan is interrupted and he is ejected by the crowd.

Reason (R): In this alternate world, the audience does not tolerate a chairman on the presidential chair at seminars.

- a. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b. Both A and R are not true
- c. Both A and R are true and R is not the correct explanation of A
- d. A is true but R is not true

Answer: (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

Explanation: When Gaitonde tries to occupy the presidential chair and speak, the crowd pelts him with objects. This is because, in this version of India, a long tradition of democratic procedure has eliminated the need for a chairman, a concept that is alien and offensive to the audience.

Question 3

Assertion (A): According to Rajendra Deshpande, reality is not unique and there may be many different realities.

Reason (R): Experiments on very small systems show a lack of determinism in quantum theory.

- a. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b. Both A and R are not true
- c. Both A and R are true and R is not the correct explanation of A
- d. A is true but R is not true

Answer: Both Assertion and Reason are true, and Reason correctly explains Assertion.

Explanation: Rajendra Deshpande suggests that reality is not single or fixed — there can be multiple realities. This idea aligns with the findings of quantum theory, where experiments on microscopic systems (like particles) show that outcomes are not deterministic or predictable with certainty. This lack of determinism supports the notion that reality may differ based on observation or interpretation, hence R explains A.

EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

“That was no make-believe. He had passed through a fantastic experience, and he knew that the proof of the experience lay in his own mind, which no one could see but which was as clear and as rational as any other fact in the world.”

i. What does the phrase “no make-believe” suggest about Professor Gaitonde’s experience?

Answer: It suggests that Gaitonde’s experience of an alternate reality was genuine to him and not a product of imagination. He firmly believed that what he had witnessed was real.

ii. Why does the author say that the proof lay “in his own mind”?

Answer: The experience was psychological or metaphysical — it couldn’t be proven scientifically, yet it was internally real to Gaitonde, highlighting the subjective nature of reality.

iii. What does this moment reveal about Professor Gaitonde’s character and his approach to the unknown?

Answer: It shows him as a rational yet open-minded scholar. He does not dismiss his strange experience as illusion; instead, he seeks logical explanations, embodying the spirit of inquiry that blends science and philosophy.

iv. How does this extract reflect the theme of *multiple realities* explored in the story?

Answer: It reinforces the theme that **reality is not singular**. Through Gaitonde’s conviction, the author shows that alternate worlds can coexist, and one’s consciousness may move between them under extraordinary circumstances.

v. Why does the author describe the experience as “fantastic” yet “rational”?

Answer: The experience was “fantastic” because it defied ordinary logic—he had witnessed an alternate reality. Yet it was “rational” because, from Gaitonde’s scientific perspective, it could be explained through the laws of quantum theory and parallel worlds.

vi. Assertion (A): Professor Gaitonde was convinced that his experience of the parallel world was real and not imaginary.

Reason (R): He believed that the evidence of his experience existed only in his own mind, which was clear and logical to him.

- a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true, but R is false.
- d) A is false, but R is true.

Answer: (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

Explanation: Professor Gaitonde firmly believed that what he had experienced was real. His conviction stemmed from his rational understanding of the event—though invisible to others, the *proof* existed in his conscious mind. Hence, the **Reason correctly explains** why he was convinced of the **truth of his experience**.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. The story implies that scientific theories like quantum mechanics can:

- a) Explain only what is visible and measurable.
- b) Help understand experiences beyond normal perception.
- c) Disprove imaginative experiences.
- d) Make history predictable.

Answer: b) Help understand experiences beyond normal perception.

2. Professor Gaitonde's reaction to his experience reveals that he is:

- a) Skeptical and dismissive of unusual events.
- b) Open-minded and rational in understanding the unknown.
- c) Afraid of scientific exploration.
- d) Careless and imaginative.

Answer: b) Open-minded and rational in understanding the unknown.

3. The alternate history in the story, where the Marathas win the Battle of Panipat, primarily shows that:

- a) History is fixed and unchangeable.
- b) Small changes in events can lead to different realities.
- c) History is always imaginative.
- d) Battles are more important than science.

Answer: b) Small changes in events can lead to different realities.

4. The story "Adventure" suggests that:

- a) Scientific experiments always produce the same results.
- b) Reality may have multiple interpretations depending on perspective.
- c) Imagination is more important than science.
- d) History cannot change.

Answer: b) Reality may have multiple interpretations depending on perspective.