

ENGLISH (FIRST FLIGHT) CHAPTER 01: A LETTER TO GOD

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(Textbook Q&A)

- 1) **What did Lencho hope for?**
Lencho hoped for rain which could help increasing the harvest of his farm.
- 2) **Why did Lencho say the raindrops were like ‘new coins’?**
Lencho was desperately waiting for the rain which could help improve the harvest of his crops. Rain was such a valuable thing for him so he compared it to the new coins.
- 3) **How did the rain change? What happened to Lencho’s fields?**
The rain was changed due to the blow of a strong wind and very large hailstones which fell along with the rain. All the crops in Lencho's fields were destroyed.
- 4) **What were Lencho’s feelings when the hail stopped?**
After hail stopped, Lencho's soul was filled with sadness. He was worried about lack of food to feed his family for the coming year.
- 5) **Who or what did Lencho have faith in? What did he do?**
Lencho had faith in God. He believed that God’s eyes see everything, even what is deep in one’s conscience. He wrote a letter to God saying that he needed a hundred pesos to sow his field again.
- 6) **Who read the letter?**
Postmaster read the letter.
- 7) **What did the postmaster do then?**
The Postmaster laughed initially but then he became serious. He was deeply impressed by the Lencho’s faith in God and did not want to shake this faith. So he decided to collect the money and send it to Lencho.
- 8) **Was Lencho surprised to find a letter for him with money in it?**
No, Lencho was not at all surprised to see the letter from God with money inside it. His confidence and faith in God was such that he had expected that reply from God.
- 9) **What made him angry?**
When he finished counting money he found only seventy pesos. But he demanded a hundred pesos. He was confident that God could neither make a mistake nor deny him for what he had requested. Therefore, he concluded that the post office employees must have taken the remaining thirty pesos which made him angry.
- 10) **Who does Lencho have complete faith in? Which sentences in the story tell you this?**
Lencho had complete faith in God. The sentences in the story that show this are as follows:
 - (i) But in the hearts of all who lived in that solitary house in the middle of the valley, there was a single hope: help from God.

- (ii) All through the night, Lencho thought only of his one hope: the help of God, whose eyes, as he had been instructed, see everything, even what is deep in one's conscience.
- (iii) "God," he wrote, "if you don't help me, my family and I will go hungry this year."
- (iv) He wrote 'To God' on the envelope, put the letter inside and, still troubled, went to town.
- (v) God could not have made a mistake, nor could he have denied Lencho what he had requested.
- (vi) It said: "God: of the money that I asked for, only seventy pesos reached me. Send me the rest, since I need it very much."

11) Why does the postmaster send money to Lencho? Why does he sign the letter 'God'?
Postmaster was impressed by Lencho's faith in God. So, he decided to send money to Lencho. Moreover, the postmaster did not want to shake Lencho's faith in God. So, he signed the letter as 'God' in order to convey the message that God had himself written the letter.

12) Did Lencho try to find out who had sent the money to him? Why/Why not?
No, Lencho did not try to find out who had sent the money to him. This is because he had great confidence in God and never suspected that it could be someone else other than God who would send him the money.

13) Who does Lencho think has taken the rest of the money? What is the irony in the situation?
Lencho thinks that the post office people have taken the money. It is the post office people who send the money to Lencho but, on the other hand, Lencho thinks they have stolen his money and he calls them crooks. Thus there is an element of irony in this situation.

14) There are two kinds of conflict in the story: between humans and nature, and between humans themselves. How are these conflicts illustrated?
The conflict between humans and nature is shown by the destruction of Lencho's crops by the hailstorm. It was completely against his anticipation of desired rainfall to help him gain a good harvest. Lencho felt sad by this destruction which projected the conflict of nature and man.

The Story also showed another ironical conflict, between humans themselves. The postmaster and his colleagues, without expecting anything in return, managed to collect some money to help Lencho as well as to keep his faith in God intact. They were not related to Lencho in any manner. It was an act of kindness and selflessness on their part. Despite this, Lencho blamed them as 'crooked' in his second letter to God, for taking away some amount of money. It is quite ironical that those who actually helped Lencho received a false allegation of being corrupt in return.

15) Find sentences in the story with negative words, which express the following ideas emphatically.

- (i) The trees lost all their leaves.
The trees lost all their leaves. Not a leaf remained on the trees.
- (ii) The letter was addressed to God himself.
It was nothing less than a letter to God.

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- (iii) The postman saw this address for the first time in his career.
The postman saw this address for the first time in his career. Never in his career as a postman had he known that address

