

Chapter – 5

Acceptance Speech

Aung San Suu Kyi (19 June 1945)

About the Author

Aung San Suu Kyi was born on 19th June 1945 in Rangoon. She is a pro-democracy activist and leader of the National League for Democracy in Burma. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991.

Award Ceremony in Oslo (1991)

- Alexander Aris accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of his mother Aung San Suu Kyi.
- His mother was incarcerated in Burma.
- Aris delivered the speech in Oslo on behalf of his mother.
- He tried his best to convey his mother's sentiments.

Acceptance Speech of Aung san Suu kyi

- Gratitude:
 - The prize doesn't belong to her, but to the people of Burma.
 - It is a recognition of their struggle and sacrifices.
 - Aung symbolises the plight of the people of Burma.
 - The Burmese people feel honoured that their suffering has been recognised in the far distant land.
 - The prize is being given on the International Human Rights Day.
- Dimension of the struggle
 - The struggle in Rangoon is part of the much larger struggle worldwide.
 - The struggle is for the liberation of the human spirit from political tyranny and psychological subjection.
 - This award is significant for the choice of the recipient
 - It makes strong case for the early release of Aung from detention.
 - The Nobel Peace Prize encapsulates the ideals of humanism.
- Motivation
 - Peace, freedom and democracy are essential for human beings.
 - We all should make efforts to prove Martin Luther King Jr right that humanity will be free from slavery.
 - We should realise that the beauty of genuine brotherhood and peace is more valuable than diamonds or silver or gold.

Questions

Now, on the basis of your understanding of this lesson, try to answer the following questions:

1. Why had Alexander accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of his mother?
2. Peace, freedom and democracy are essential for human beings. Do you agree? Give your own opinion.
3. The beauty of genuine brotherhood and peace is more precious than diamond, silver or gold? Why does Aris claim so? Do you agree with him?