



**NOTES:**

**UNIT: I (prose-iii)**

**THE KITE MAKER**

**-Ruskin Bond**

**SUMMARY**

Mahmood was day dreaming in the sun. His grandson Ali's kite was caught in the branches of an old banyan tree. He came running to his grandfather and told him about it. The grandfather said that his grandson had yet to learn how to fly a kite properly. He was also too old and weak to teach it to him. Then, he made a new kite for his grandson and gave it to him. Ali went away with the kite.

The old kite maker remained day dreaming in the sun. His kite shop had been sold to a junk dealer many years ago and now, he made kites for his own pleasure and as Ali's play things. Time had changed a great deal. Everyone is no longer interested in kite flying. Children preferred to spend their money at the movies. Adults disliked kite flying. Moreover, there were few open spaces left for kite flying. Those vast grounds had been swallowed up in city expansion.

Mahmood remembered his good past times when the grown-ups used to fly kites. Many kite battles were fought with a good deal of betting and money frequently changed hands. The green maidan stretched from the fort walls to the river bank. In those days there was time to spend an idle hour with a gay, dancing strip of paper. The Nawab himself would come down with his retinues to join in his noble pastime.

Mahmood made varieties of kites and sold them in his kite-shop. He was very famous throughout the city for his kites in his youth. His selling of kites was a roaring business. Some of his elaborate kites sold for as much as three or four rupees. At the request of the Nawab, he had once made a very special kite, unlike any other kite seen in the district. It consisted of a series of small, very light paper discs, trailing on a thin bamboo frame. To the extremity of each disc he tied a sprig of grass for balance. A convex fantastic face being painted with two small mirrors as eyes, the decreasing discs from head to tail gave an appearance of a crawling serpent. It required great skill to launch this cumbersome device from the ground, and only Mahmood could manage it. Everyone had heard of the dragon kite that Mahmood had built, and word went round that it possessed supernatural powers. A large crowd assembled on the maidan to watch its first public launching in the presence of the Nawab. At the first attempt, it did not budge from the ground. The disc made a plaintive, protesting sound, the sun was trapped in the little mirrors, making the kite living, complaining creature. Then, the wind came from the right direction and the dragon kite soared into the sky. When the kite went high, it pulled fiercely on the twine, and Mahmood's two sons had to help him with the reel. But, still the kite pulled, determined to be free, to live a life of its own. Then, the twine snapped, the kite leapt away towards the sun, sailed on until it was lost to view.

Mahmood became old now. Most of Mahmood's friends were dead. The Nawab died many years ago. Kite-flying was no longer a popular game. Children like to spend their money on movies. Now, Mahmood became a disconnected person to the world. People looked at Mahmood with the same indifference as the old banyan tree. Everyone hurried, hurried in a heat of hope, and delicate things like kites were trampled underfoot. Moreover, the Nawab died many years ago and his descendants were becoming poor like Mahmood himself.

There is a great affinity between trees and men. They grow at much the same pace, if they are not hurt, or starved, or cut down. In their youth they are resplendent creatures, and in their declining years they stoop a little. The old kite maker delighted that his grandson, Ali flew a kite nearby. He and the young mimosa tree would show the vitality of the youth very soon.

While the kite maker continued his day dreams, the voices in the street grew fainter. He felt as if he was falling asleep, as he often did, and was dreaming of a beautiful and powerful kite resembling the great white bird of the Hindus, Garuda, God Vishnu's famous steed. Mahmood would like to make a wonderful new kite for little Ali. He had nothing else to leave the boy. But, he was not destined to do so. Meanwhile, Ali returned from the street and asked his grandfather if his mother had returned from the bazar. Mahmood could hear the voice from very far away. His sense gradually left him. By this moment, a sudden gust of wind set the caught kite free from the banyan tree and lifted it into the blue sky, far from the sweating city.

### WORD NOTES

<b>Para-1</b>	: <i>Day-dreaming</i> : <i>Banyan</i> : <i>Gali Ram Nath</i>	– A series of pleasant thought that distract one's attention from the present. – An Indian fig tree. – A lane or street known as it (A Hindi word).
<b>Para-2</b>	: <i>Junk Dealer</i> : <i>A great deal</i> : <i>Swallowed up</i>  : <i>Kite battle</i>	– A person who buys and sold old things which are no longer in use. – A large amount of (Here, time has changed so much.). – Disappeared into (He, the vast grounds disappeared into the city expansion.) – Kite fighting.
<b>Para-3</b>	: <i>Maidan</i> : <i>Idle hour</i> : <i>Dancing strip of paper</i>	– A Hindi word for field. – Lazy hour (not kept busy/ pastime). – Kite.
<b>Para-4</b>	: <i>Roaring business</i> : <i>Elaborate</i>  : <i>Nawab</i> : <i>Trailing</i> : <i>Fantastic</i> : <i>Crawling</i> : <i>Cumbersome</i> : <i>Supernatural</i>  : <i>Budge</i> : <i>Plaintive</i> : <i>Fiercely</i> : <i>Twine</i>  : <i>Snapped</i>	– To be very busy and successful. – involving many carefully arranged parts / complicated in design and planning. – A Muslim ruler. – Draw/be drawn along behind someone or something. – Extraordinarily good / attractive. – Move forward by dragging the body close to the ground. – large and heavy and therefore difficult to carry or use. – (of a manifestation or event) attributed to some force beyond scientific understanding or the laws of nature. – Make or cause to make the slightest movement. – Sounding sad and mournful. – In a savagely violent or aggressive manner. – Strong thread or string consisting of two or more strands of hemp or cotton twisted together. – Break suddenly and completely.
<b>Para-5</b>	: <i>Disconnected</i> : <i>Indifference</i> : <i>Trampled</i> : <i>Delicate</i> : <i>Descendants</i>	– Having had a connection broken. – Lack of interest, concern or sympathy. – Trodden on and crushed. – Unimportant. – A person who is descended from a particular ancestor.

- Para-6** : *Affinity* – Similarity/ a natural liking for.  
: *Resplendent* – Attractive and impressive through being richly colorful or sumptuous.  
: *Stoop* – Bend one’s body forwards and downwards.  
: *Mimosa tree* – Persian silk tree.  
: *Vitality* – The state of being strong and active/ energy.
- Para-7** : *Fainter* – More indistinct.  
: *Resemble* – Look or seem like.  
: *Steed* – A horse being ridden or available for riding (Here, a bird of Hindu mythology being used by Lord Vishnu as a horse).



মণিগোবিন্দৰাওল পাৰ্ৱে নক্সিওনাল (পাৰ্ৱে)  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)**  
Government of Manipur