

## **Nectar in a Sieve**

By Kamala Markandaya

Study questions for Chapters XVII to the end

### Chapter XVII

1. What happened with the harvest the season following the famine?
2. Why did they laugh?

### Chapter XVIII

3. What did Rakmani bring to Kenny? How did he receive the gift?
4. In what ways were Nathan and Kenny united in their views?

### Chapter XIX

5. What news did Selvan have for his mother? How did she receive this news?
6. What advice does Kenny have for Rakmani? What is her response?

### Chapter XX

7. What thoughts haunt Rakmani as she prepares the hut for the birth of Ira's child?
8. How does Ira respond to her albino child? Her father? The Village?

### Chapter XXI

9. What led to Granny's death?
10. How did work on the hospital progress?

### Chapter XXII

11. How was Sacrabani treated by the other children?
12. What were the difficult questions he had for his mother?

### Chapter XXIII

13. What advice does Kenny have for the healing of Nathan?
14. Why do Rakmani and Nathan have to leave the farm?
15. What cosmic struggle does it represent?
16. How does Selvam react to the news of his parents' loss of the land they farmed?

## PART TWO

#### Chapter XXIV

17. Describe the trip by bullock.
18. What did Nathan and Rakmani do after the bullock driver dropped them off?
19. What is the temple like? What happened there?

#### Chapter XXV

20. What happens to Rakmani and Nathan when they wake up at the temple?
21. What happens to them at the Doctor's house?

#### Chapter XXVI

22. At the Collector's house, what do Nathan and Rakmani find?
23. What hospitality does their daughter-in-law give them?

#### Chapter XXVII

24. Back at the temple, how does Rakmani support Nathan and herself?
25. When Puli finds them, how do their fortunes change?

#### Chapter XXVIII

26. What did Rakmani do with some of the money they earned as stone cutters?
27. What happened to Nathan as he tried to go to work in the monsoon rains?

#### Chapter XXIX

28. What does Nathan tell Rakmani as he dies?

#### Chapter XXX

29. What do Rakmani and Puli do after Nathan dies?

#### Discussion questions

In what ways is your life similar to Rakmani's? How is it different?

Why do you think the author called the book "Nectar in a Sieve"?