

Факультет иностранных языков
Специальность «Перевод и переводоведение»
английский язык

Дополнительное вступительное испытание

Текст № 19

1. Прочитайте текст и подготовьтесь к пересказу и беседе по его содержанию, ответьте на вопросы по тексту.

THE BURGLARY

After A. Bennet

Sir Jee Dain's career was most successful in the history of the Five Towns. Though most of the people of the town hated him he was the best known public man¹ and was elected the mayor of the town three times. The people who worked with him decided to make him a present: his portrait. A well-known artist painted the portrait. A special committee inspected the portrait and found it the best masterpiece of modern times. When the people of the Five Towns came to look at it they saw a mean little old man. The portrait was so lifelike that some of the people began laughing. Some of them felt sorry for his wife whom all people respected and loved.

The portrait in a gold massive frame had been on the wall of the dining room of Sir Jee's house for sixteen months when Lady Dain told her husband to take it away. She said, "If the portrait remains in the house I shall die."

"Don't say so. I'll not get rid² of the portrait for ten times what it costs. I love it," he answered. But it was a lie. Jee secretly hated the portrait more than anything else. He avoided looking at it. At first he thought of burning down the house but then an idea of a less expensive way of getting rid of the portrait came to his mind.

There had been a number of burglaries in the town recently. On the previous afternoon a policeman had caught a burglar.

Sir Jee, mayor of the Five Towns, dismissed the charge³ against the burglar, William Smith by name. Some time later he met Smith and had a private talk with him.

¹ Public man – общественный деятель

² to get rid of smth. – избавляться

³ dismiss the charge – снял обвинение

When Sir Jee remained alone with William Smith, he said, “Smith, you know I have dismissed the charge against you, don’t you?”

“Yes, governor,” Smith answered smiling. “But what do you want?”

Sir Jee was at a loss how to explain⁴ what he wanted from him.

“I hope I can be useful to you,” Sir Jee said diplomatically.

“Well,” interrupted Smith. “That’s all right. But don’t play tricks on me⁵.”

“How would you like to commit a perfectly lawful burglary⁶?” asked Sir Jee.

William Smith looked surprised.

“In my house there is a large portrait of myself in the dining room. Will you steal it?”

“Why don’t you steal it yourself?” William suggested.

“But the burglary must really take place.”

“What are you going to give me for this job?”

“Well, I’m giving you the opportunity to honestly steal a picture that costs over a thousand pounds. And you need money.”

“Then, why are you in such a hurry to get rid of it?” asked the burglar. “I don’t like it, and Lady Dain doesn’t like it. But it’s a present to me, so I can’t do anything with it myself,” said Sir Jee. “And how am I going to sell it? You say, governor, it’s famous all over the country. To sell it is almost the same as to sell the Nelson Column,” said William.

“Oh, nonsense,” said Sir Jee, “nonsense. You will sell it in America quite easily.”
“All right, governor, I agree just to oblige you⁷”.

They agreed to do it the next night. On the night of the burglary Sir Jee remained at home alone, even the servants left as it was Christmas Eve.

Sir Jee again and again thought of his plan. After all, burglary was absolutely the only way out and it surely was better than to burn down the house, as somebody could save the portrait.

“This is the last time I shall see you,” said Sir Jee to the portrait. Then he went to bed leaving one of the windows open for the burglar to come in.

At about two o’clock in the morning he heard some noise: it was William Smith, he had kept his word⁸.

⁴ He was at a loss how to explain – Не знал, как объяснить

⁵ Don’t play tricks on me – не водите меня за нос.

⁶ a perfectly lawful burglary – совершить ограбление на законных основаниях.

⁷ just to oblige you – сделать вам одолжение

In the morning Sir Jee got up early and half-dressed went down to the dining room. The portrait was on the floor with the following words on it in chalk: “This is no use to me”. It was the massive gold frame that had gone. And as he found later, all the silver had gone too, not a spoon was left in the house.

TEXT № 7

THE BURGLARY

QUESTIONS

1. What kind of man was Sir Jee?
2. What portrait did the people of the town present him with?
3. Why did he hate the portrait?
4. What was the mayor’s plan of getting rid of the portrait?
5. Why was he sure that William Smith would accept his offer?