



NOTES:

UNIT: I (Prose-v)

THE SCOURGE OF HIV

-L. Kamakhyakumar Singh

Introduction: HIV/AIDS is the destroyer of many homes, families and lives. Even a night's mistake may ruin the lives of all the near and dear ones. In such a scenario, can one be careless? The following is the tragic chronicle of a family, once happy but later on under the terrible shadow of the curse called HIV and AIDS, turn into a saga of suffering and misery and death.

Summary: Bina was only forty-three years. She was once well known among her friends for her good looks, grace and charm. She had fallen in love with Rajen, a lone heir of a big businessman, who owned a chain of shops in the city. Rajen, a young man was debonair and gentle. Their happy relation that started from college days continued through the university days and then the marriage. It was a big social event both families rich, well known and with innumerable friends. Rajen loved Bina very much so does Bina. It took five years for the first child to come. Both of them were blessed with a beautiful son. They named him Akash (which means the sky) as a symbol of his love for Bina which is as vast as the sky. Rajen hardly left Imphal because he did not like to stay away from his wife and son. He always persuaded his father to take on the business trips outside Imphal. He always sent his father for business affairs in Kolkata saying that his father was always wanted by their business partners in Kolkata and he on the other hand was not experience enough in his business dealings. Only once in the third year of his married life, his father was down with fever and he had no other options than to leave Imphal for Kolkata. When he returned home, he told Bina that he felt as if he had been away for 5 years leaving them in Imphal. But, there was a tone of guilt in his voice. When Akash was about 10 years old something went very wrong with his health. He lost the vigour that was characteristic of boys of his age. He was brought home to restore his health. In the meanwhile, Rajen too began lose his health. He was suffering from a bout of viral fever. Unlike the earlier attack of viral fever, this time the fever would not go. He also contracted several other diseases like typhoid, diarrhea etc. Bina was very much worried about her husband and son. The doctors were also worried and confused in

thinking how such seriousness in their patients come up, even though they tried their level best to cure Rajen and his son. So, they finally told Bina and Rajen that they should conduct a special blood test for both Rajen and his son, Akash. When the result of the blood test came, they were found HIV positive. Rajen now confessed Bina by saying that he had committed a grave sin which no one can forgive. And then he narrated the whole story of how he was contracted with HIV. Once in his business trip to Kolkata, Bhatta, his business partner brought a call girl in the hotel where he stayed. He did not like it. So, he refused Bhatta to bring back that girl but Bhatta insisted again and again saying that nothing would happen; it was just to entertain him. And so, he stayed one night with that girl in the hotel and make physical relationship with that girl. Thus, he got HIV. He said that even God may not forgive him for that sin. Bina simply kept gazing at the emaciated face of Rajen. Tears fell down from her cheeks. She was shocked to hear it and cried a lot. Rajen's father in the meantime was pleading the doctors saying why such an advance medical science could not find any medicine to cure HIV, AIDS. He requested the doctor to save his son and grandson's life at any cost. The doctor explained that science has so far failed to find any medicine to cure this disease. And it will take a lot of time finding it. This is the tragedy of hundreds and thousands of men and women. Husbands contract it in their unwary moments. Women contract it from their husbands. Their children contract it from the parents. This is the tragedy of mankind and also of the thousands of women and children in Manipur. Rajen's father remained silent. The doctor handed the medical report on Bina and she was also found HIV positive.

Word notes: **saga**- a story. **debonair**- fashionable. **ilk**- kind. **reminisced** - to think about a happy time in the past. **genuineness** – sincerity. **restored**- get back. **wary**- careful in the way they were dealing, talking etc. **grievous**- very serious. **emaciated** – lean and thin. **protruding**- sticking out. **unwary**- careless.