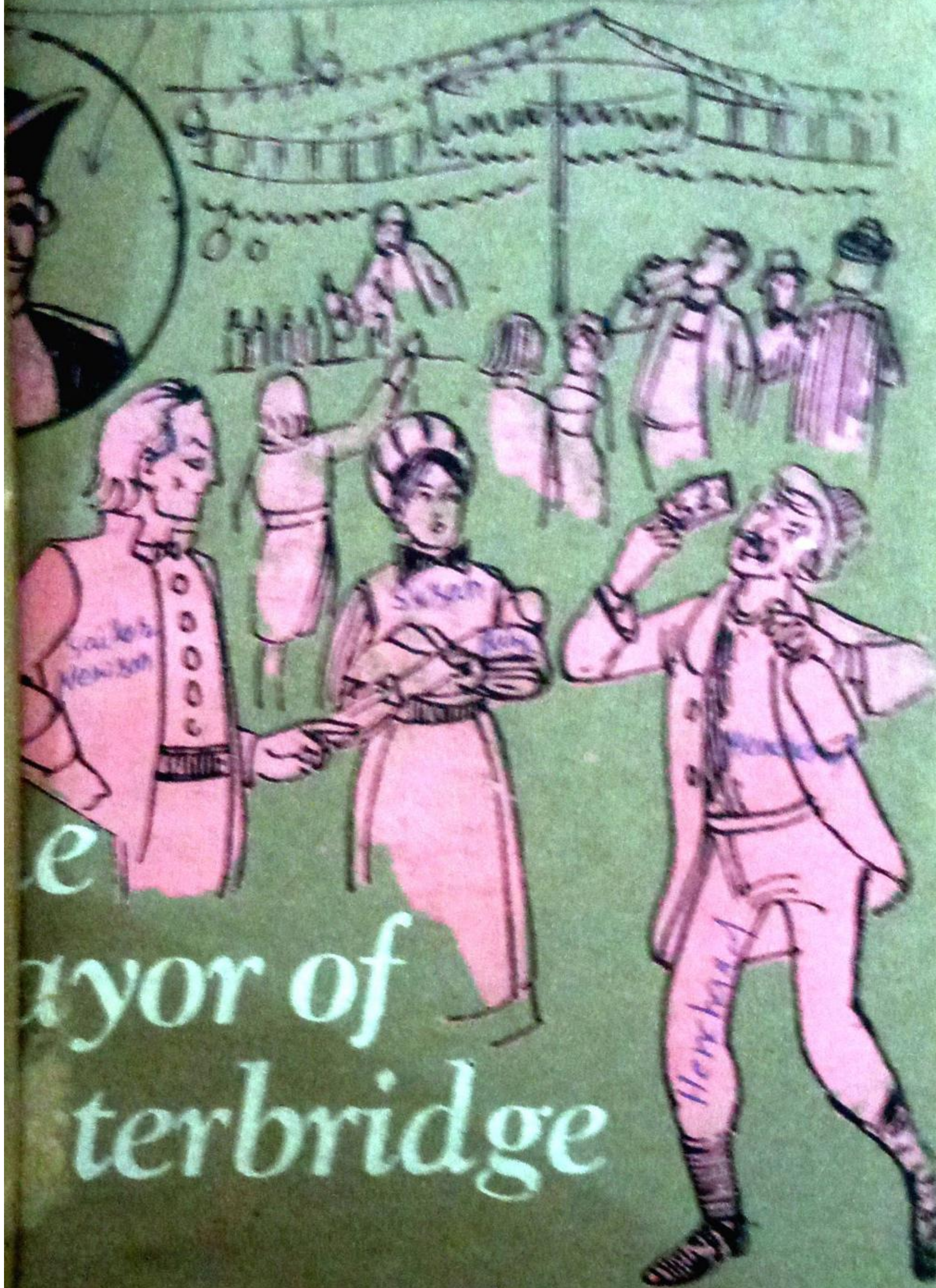


THOMAS HARDY



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Mayor of
terbridge

P CHAUDHURI

AARTI BOOK CENTRE
NEW DELHI-8

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25. Selected Critical Questions With Answers :—

1. *The Mayor of Casterbridge* is about transition. It explores a related disordering human values, the consequences of new forms of commerce, and of the attitudes these forms promoted. Discuss.

Or

2. As *The Mayor of Casterbridge* deals with life a century or more ago, what value has it as a historical novel?

Or

3. Write a note on the historical setting of *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.

Or

4. Write a note on the social background of *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.

159

5. "No other writer has given so dramatic a value to background and environment as Hardy does". In the light of this remark bring out the importance of *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.

Or

6. Show that Nature is not merely a background in Hardy's stories, it is often an active agent.

Or

7. Examine the validity of the remark that the dynamic use of scene is essential in Hardy to determine the lives of the characters.

Or

8. Write a note on Hardy's delineation of Nature.

161

9. Discuss the basic themes of *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.

Or

10. Write a note on the major themes of this novel. 164

11. Examine Henchard's life in the light of Aristotle's views on the tragic hero : 'a person neither eminently virtuous or just, nor yet involved in misfortune by deliberate vice of villainy but by some error of human frailty and this person should also be someone of high fame and flourishing prosperity.'

Or

12. Discuss Henchard as the protagonist of a classical tragedy. 167

13. A critic calls Michael Henchard 'plainly a doomed puppet'. Give your own view.

Or

14. Is Henchard a hero or a victim ?

Or

15. How far is Henchard responsible for his fate ? 169

16. "The conflict between Farfrae and Henchard is a conflict between two different ways of life—the new and the old." Discuss.

Or

17. Compare and contrast Farfrae and Henchard. 174

18. Hardy is often at his best when dealing with women characters, but he achieves little success with Susan and Elizabeth-Jane, despite their importance to the story. Do you agree ?

Or

19. Discuss the women characters of Hardy with special reference to the novel you have studied, 175

20. How far is it true to state that in *The Mayor of Casterbridge* suffering is caused by faults of characters as much as by fate or circumstances ?

Or

21. "The fate above us, not the fate working through us—that is what is eminent and memorable in the Wessex novels." Discuss.

Or

22. Comment on the criticism that in Hardy's novels we find fate working from above.

Or

23. Illustrate by reference to his novels that Hardy's characters are viciously "sporting with by the President of the immortals".

Or

24. "All the novels of Hardy point to one great fact—the tragic irony of life." Consider this statement with special reference to *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.]

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25. What part does co-incidence play in Hardy's novels ? Illustrate from *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.

Or

26. What part does co-incidence play in the structure of *The Mayor of Casterbridge* ?

Or

27. Write a note on Hardy's use of chance and co-incidence.

181

28. Is it correct to say that Hardy's plots are unconvincing? Illustrate your answer by the novel you have read.

Or

29. Write a note on Hardy's plot-construction.

183

30. To what extent can Henchard be regarded as the author of his own fate?

Or

31. Bring out any parallels that you find between the story of Henchard and the great tragedies of classical and Shakespearean type.

Or

32. How far is it correct to say that the coincidences and reappearances in this novel are meant to show the anger of nature at its violation by Henchard?

Or

33. Point out the symbolic significance of the action of Henchard of selling his wife in the fair.

Or

34. Bring out the floating and the restoration of the universal moral order in *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.

Or

35. Show how the past exacts recognition as well as atonement in *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.

Or

36. Consider *The Mayor of Casterbridge* as a story of crime and punishment.

183

37. To what extent does the background of the novel colour Hardy's vision of life ?

Or

38. How far is the background and setting of his novels responsible for Hardy's pessimism ?

185

39. Describe fully Joshua Jopp's role in the plot of *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.

Or

40. Write a note on the role of Jopp in the destiny and fortunes of Henchard.

Or

41. What aspects of rustic life are brought to the fore through Jopp ?

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26. Chronology of Important Dates

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27. Select Bibliography

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