

The Cop And The Anthem

Lesson Explanation, Part 1

Soapy is a homeless, jobless man. As winter was approaching, Soapy was worried about how to spend the chilling winter. He moved restlessly on his seat in Madison Square. Sitting on his chair, he noticed a few signs of winters approaching. He saw birds flying to south, people buying new warm clothes for winter. And these signs clearly states that winter is near.

And, when a dead leaf fell near Soapy's feet, it was a special sign for him that winter was near. It was the time for all who lived in Madison Square to prepare for winter. Soapy's mind could realise all these facts and thus he continued becoming more restless. He thought to himself that he needs to do something to save himself from the arriving winter.

His hopes for winter weren't very high. Neither did he think of sailing away on a ship nor he was thinking of southern skies or the Bay of Naples. All he wanted is three months in the prison on Blackwell's Island. Being there would give him three months of food every night, three months safe from the cold north wind and being safe from cops. And, all these are what Soapy wanted the most in the world.

Soapy had made Blackwell's Island his home for several years. It's the richer New Yorkers who made plans to Florida or the Mediterranean Sea each winters but Soapy was busy making his small plans for going to the island.

Three big newspapers had not kept him warm during the nights in the park. All these made Soapy become more thoughtful about his food and lodging. He could have gone to any place in the city where he would have been taken care of through the winter. But for him Blackwell's island was the best place as he would just have to follow the rules of the prison. Whereas in the other places Soapy would have to answer to many questions. He believed, in prison, his life decided to move towards his desire.