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## STANDARD XI: BOOK VI

## THE LAST DAYS OF POMPEII

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STANDARD XI SERIES

BOOK VI.

# THE LAST DAYS OF POMPEII

By

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# FOREWORD

'The Last Days of Pompeii is the sixth of a series of six novels abridged and simplified for the use of Standard XI pupils as home reading books. Only the words and sentence patterns used in the Detailed English Texts for Standards VI to X have been used in this book. Special care has been taken to see that the number of new words introduced is limited to two or three in a page of about two hundred words. Whenever the meaning of a new word is not clear from the context, it is given at the foot of the page.

The Last Days of Pompeii is a historical novel by Lord Lytton. Though the characters are all imaginary, the main incident described—the destruction of the city of Pompeii in A. D. 79 by volcanic eruption is a historical fact. Round this incident Lytton has built up the story of Glaucus and Ione. Arbaces and Apaecides. But the sweetest character in the story is

the blind flower-girl Nydia who plays a very important part in the novel.

Self-administering tests have been given at the end of every chapter. Readers are expected to test themselves before they proceed to the next section.

A final test covering the whole book is given at the end. Teachers are requested to check up the library work of the pupils by making them write down the answers in their note books.

Bright pupils may be encouraged to write their own appreciation of the novel. The points given below may be used for this purpose.

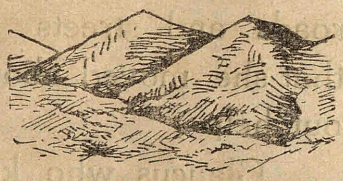
1. Name of the Novel
2. Author
3. Nationality of the Author
4. Chief incidents
5. Chief characters
6. Do you like the novel? If so, why? If not, why not?

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# THE LAST DAYS OF POMPEII

## 1. GLAUCUS AND IONE

In southern Italy there is a beautiful city called Naples. Not far from the city is Mount Vesuvius which is one of the most famous volcanoes in the world. About two thousand years ago there was another beautiful city called Pompeii at the foot of the volcano. In the year 79 A. D. Mount Vesuvius



burst open and a river of lava flowed down destroying the city of Pompeii completely.

At that time there lived in Pompeii a rich young gentleman named Glaucus. He was not a Roman, but an Athenian who

had come to Italy and settled down in Pompeii. He was a very handsome and well-read man and was one of the richest citizens of Pompeii. One evening he went out for a walk with his friend Clodius. As they were going to the beach they saw a beautiful young girl selling flowers. As she sold flowers she sang in a sweet voice.

'Buy my flowers—O buy-I pray!
The blind girl comes from afar.'

The girl was blind, but knew the roads and streets of Pompeii so well that she moved about the city freely without help.

Glaucus who knew her well went up and bought a bunch of flowers from her.

"Come to my house, Nydia," said he, "my garden wants your care."

Nydia's face grew bright when she heard his voice. "So Glaucus, have you come back to Pompeii?" she asked.

"I came back from Athens a week ago" he answered.

Then he took leave of her and went away with his friend. Soon they came to the beach where they sat down and began to talk. "What is wrong with you, Glaucus?" asked his friend. "You don't look happy? Are you in love?"



"Yes, Clodius" said he, "several months ago I saw a beautiful girl and fell in love with her. She had come to worship at the temple and her brother was with her. But before I could find out who she was, I had to go away to Athens and I have not seen her since."

Before long Glaucus saw her again. She was a beautiful lady from Naples

and had come to Pompeii only a few months ago. Clodius knew her well.

"Her name is Ione," said he, "though she is one of the most beautiful ladies in Italy she does not love anyone and she says she will never marry."

Clodius took Glaucus to her house and they became friends. From that day Glaucus began to visit her daily. Ione's parents were Greeks who had settled down in Naples and so Glaucus was her countryman. As days went by they fell deeply in love.

One day she told him about her brother, Apaecides.

"He is deeply religious," said she, "and Arbaces has made him a priest in the temple of Isis."

Then she told him that Arbaces was her guardian. Glaucus knew him well.

He was an Egyptian who had settled down in Pompeii. Many wild stories were told about him and the parties he gave in his house. Arbaces was little liked by the people of Pompeii who believed that he had the evil eye and could cause bad luck to a man by merely looking at him.

Arbaces was a cunning man who had his own plans about Ione. He had already decided to make her his wife. But he was much older than she; and as he was not a handsome man it was not easy for him to win her love. His plan was to win her by making her think that the gods wanted her to be his wife. For this he got the help of a priest named Calenus. "Know," said he to Calenus, "that I have decided to make Ione my wife. I am about to invite her to my house. You must make up a show to give her the idea that the gods have willed that she should be my wife."

After making the arrangements Arbaces went to see Ione. At that time she was sitting in her room talking to Glaucus. When he saw them, Arbaces knew that they were in love. At once Ione rose up to welcome him and led him to Glaucus. "This is my friend Glaucus," said she, "I am glad that you have met. You are sure to be good friends."

"I hope I shall be his friend," answered Arbaces, "but I am old and he is at least fifteen years younger than I. Moreover there is nothing in common between us. He loves wine, women and flowers while I live a simple and holy life."

It was clear that Glaucus and Arbaces could not be friends for long. They did not like each other. So Glaucus did not stay there for long; but took leave of him and went away. As soon as he was gone Arbaces turned to her and said, "Ione, you

must be more careful about the friends you choose."

"What do you mean?" she asked.

"This Glaucus is a bad man," he said. "How did he become your friend? How long have you been friends?"

"He was brought to me as a fellow-Greek."

"But he is a man of bad habits. Do you know what kind of life he leads?" said he.

"Tell me if you have anything to say against him," she asked.

"Well, only yesterday he said openly that you were in love with him. When his friend asked him whether he would marry you he laughed wickedly and said "No."

"It is not true!"

"At first I did not believe it. But several people have told me that it is true."

The talk did not last long after this and he left her. As soon as he was gone, Ione, went to her room and began to weep. From that time she did not allow anyone to go in and see her. Even her maidens were shut out.

Glaucus was sad when Ione refused to see him. He sent her beautiful garlands in which every flower spoke of his love. At night he stood under her window and sang of his love. She heard him, but she did not open the window or speak to him. Poor Glaucus was filled with grief and did not know what to do.

**TEST.** **Complete the following sentences:-**

1. **Glaucus was a rich (Roman, Egyptian, Athenian)**
2. **He fell in love with (Nydia, Ione, Isis)**
3. **Arbaces wished to (see, teach, marry) Ione.**

## 2. NYDIA

The blind girl Nydia was the slave of a wine merchant named Burbo. He sold food and wine to the gladiators who lived near by. Gladiators were men who were trained to fight at public shows. Sometimes they fought with one another to get prizes. Sometimes they had to fight with lions and other wild animals. Very often they were killed. But the cruel Romans loved to see such bloody fights.

One evening Burbo's wife sat talking to a man who had come to drink.

"Where is that blind girl of yours?" he asked. "I have not seen her for many days."

"We have sent her to town to sell flowers," she answered, "she makes more money that way."

"How did you get so beautiful a slave?"

"I bought her," said she. "One day a merchant came to me and said he had a little girl to sell. I bought her and took her home. She can sing well and make beautiful garlands of flowers."



"I believe the merchant stole her from her parents."

"Yes, she was born in a good family," said she. "When I bought her I did not know she was blind. But the merchant was gone and I could do nothing about it. But soon she learned to move about without help. Rich people love to buy the beautiful garlands she makes and they pay her more because she is blind. And now...but it is a secret ..." But before she could tell it to him, she had to go away to bring some wine.

At this moment Calenus, the priest who helped Arbaces, came to see Burbo. He was a relation of the merchant and helped him to make money by sending Nydia to sing at the secret parties held in the house of Arbaces. Those who attended the party had to take a vow that they would not tell anyone what they saw there. Even the blind Nydia had to take the vow. But she did not wish to go to those unholy parties again. So she went to Burbo and said, "Master you may beat me,—starve me—do what you will—but I won't go to that unholy place again."

"If you won't go," answered Burbo, "you shall be carried there."

"I will raise the whole city with my cries," said she.

"I will take care of that," said he, "I will put some cloth into your mouth so that you may not cry aloud."

"Then I will go to the magistrate and tell him about it."

On hearing this, the priest called out. "Remember the vow you have taken."

'Oh', cried the poor girl when she thought of the vow.

Then Burbo's wife came into the room. On seeing her, Nydia fell at her feet and cried, "O good lady, you are a woman—you have sisters—save me—do not send me to those parties again." "What?" cried the woman pushing her away angrily.

"Order me to do any other thing," she said "and I shall obey. But if you send me there again, I will go and tell the magistrate everything."

At this the woman got more angry and she began to beat the poor girl.

'Oh, oh', cried Nydia, "save me."

Just then Glaucus and Clodius happened to pass that way. They heard the cries and went in to see what the matter was. "It is my poor flower girl," said Glaucus and turning to the woman he asked, "How can you beat a blind girl like this?"

"And who are you that comes between a free woman and her slave?" asked the woman angrily.

"Speak gently," said Clodius stepping forward. Burbo was afraid of Clodius. For Clodius was a cousin of the officer who had the control of the shops and markets of Pompeii. So he ordered his wife to stop and invited them to sit down.

"My good man," said Glaucus, "I wish to buy Nydia and give her as a present to a lady. Will you sell her to me?"

"Sell Nydia! No!" cried Burbo's wife.

"Nonsense," said Clodius, "sell her to Glaucus or I will ask my cousin to close up your shop."

"But Nydia is worth her weight in gold," said the merchant.

"Name your price and it shall be yours."

"I paid six sestersias[1] for her. Now she is worth twelve."

"Take twenty and give her to me."

So saying Glaucus paid the money and bought her. Nydia was filled with joy and asked," "Am I to go home with you?"

"Yes, for the present. Then you shall go to Ione's."

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1. sestersia—a coin worth about £ 8-17 s. 1 d.

TEST. Complete the following sentences:–

1. Nydia was the slave of (Calenus, Burbo, Arbaces)

2. She was sen to sing at the parties given by (Glaucus, Ione, Arbaces)

3. She refused to go there again and so she was (sent away, beaten, killed)

4. (Clodius, Ione, Glaucus) bought her from Burbo.

## 3. IONE AND NYDIA

Though Ione refused to meet Glaucus and other friends, she did not shut out Arbaces. The Egyptian was her guardian and she was very much afraid of him. He went to her every day and told her many false stories about Glaucus. Three days after his first visit he invited Ione to pay

him a visit. "Come to my house," said he, "You have never visited me before. Come and you shall see how an Egyptian-house looks like."



Not knowing anything about the danger to her honour or the wickedness of Arbaces, Ione promised to visit him in the evening. Arbaces was filled with joy and went home to make arrangements to receive her.

As soon as he was gone another visitor came to see her. It was the blind girl and she came with some flowers from Glaucus.

"Nydia," said Glaucus when he sent her to Ione, "I want you to do something for me."

"Gladly will I do it" said she.

"Know that I love Ione," said he. "But she refuses to see me. I do not know why you are going to her house and live with her. Will you be my friend and help me to win her love?"

"But, are you going to send me away from you?" Nydia asked wtih tears in her eyes.

"My home and Ione's shall soon be one and you shall live with both of us."

The girl turned pale when he said this; and tears rolled down her eyes. But soon she stopped weeping.

"Take this letter with you," said he, "and tell Ione how much I love her."

So saying he handed her the letter he had written.

"You shall be free, Nydia," said Glaucus, as she turned to go. "I will give you freedom."

"Forgive me, Glaucus," said she. "Don't talk to me of freedom. My happiness lies in being your slave."

Tears fell from her eyes as she stepped out of the house. "Blessed house," she cried "where I have spent the three most happy days of my life. May peace ever be with you. Now I am leaving you-to die!"

When Ione heard that a blind girl had come to see her, she called her in at once. Nydia went up to her and kneeling down, said, "Glaucus has sent me to you with these flowers."

She gave the flowers to Ione and added, "There is something more. He has sent this letter too."

Ione took the letter, opened it and read it. It ran as follows.

*'Glaucus to Ione,*

*I love you. Why have you refused to see me? You who are kind to all, must be more so to me who am your countryman. I am sending Nydia to you. She is a blind flower-girl who is very good at music. If you don't like her, send her back to me.*

*One word about Arbaces. Has he told you anything against me? Know that he is not very honest. Don't trust him.*

*Farewell.'*

Ione was filled with joy when she read the letter. "Sit down, Nydia," said she, "while I write the reply."

Then she wrote him a reply asking him to come and see her the very next day. She gave the letter to Nydia and told her to take it to Glaucus.

"Will Glaucus thank me when he reads this letter?" she asked.

"What do you mean?"

"I mean this If you are kind, he will be happy."

"Who will be unkind to Glaucus? Is he not worthy of being loved?"

"Noble Ione," answered Nydia, "Glaucus has been what God and man have never been to me a friend."

"I like you very much, Nydia," said she. "I have no sister···will you be one to me?"

The blind girl kissed Ione's hand by way of answer and asked, "Will you grant me a boon?"

"Ask and it shall be given."

"They say you are very beautiful. But I cannot see. Allow me to pass my hand over your face. That is the only way by which I can know how beautiful you are."

Nydia did not wait for her answer. Gently she passed her hand over Ione's beautiful face and hair. "Now," said she, "I know that you are very beautiful."

She took the letter and went away saying that she would come back in the evening. When Nydia was gone a slave came to tell Ione that it was time for her to go to the house of Arbaces.

Nydia took the letter to Glaucus who read it with joy. He thanked her warmly and before long she returned to Ione's house. When she found that Ione had gone to the house of Arbaces she was filled with fear.

"Has she gone there before?" she asked.

"Never, till now," answered the slave. "This is the first time she goes there."

Nydia knew that Ione's honour was in danger and that there was no time to be lost. So she went quickly to the house of Glaucus but found that he was not at home and no one knew where he had gone.

"Has Ione a brother?" she asked.

"Yes. She has a brother named Apaecides. He is a priest in the temple of Isis."

"Then", said Nydia, "he knows that his sister is in danger."

She went quickly to the temple of Isis to meet him and called out to the priest who was there.

"Who is there?" asked a voice.

"One who wants to see the priest, Apaecides."

"I am the man," said a handsome young man coming forward. "Tell me what you want."

"Listen, you have a sister, have n't you?"

"Yes?"

"You know Arbaces. Your sister has gone to his house?"

"It cannot be. I don't believe it."

"It is true."

"Then her honour, even her life is in danger and I must go and save her. But I do not know the pass-word. His slaves won't let me in at the gate.

"I will tell you the pass-word. But take your dagger for you will need it."

Apaecides took his dagger and followed Nydia to the house of Arbaces.

"If my sister is in this unholy place," said he, "Arbaces shall die."

TEST. Complete the following sentences:--

1. Arbaces invited (Apaecides. Ione, Glaucus) to visit him and (he, she) agreed.
2. Glaucus sent (Clodius, Nydia, Barbo) to Ione with a letter.
3. Ione went to the house of (Glaucus, Apaecides, Arbaces)
4. Nydia sent (Glaucus, Calenus, Apaecides) to save Ione from him.

## 4. THE EGYPTIAN

When Ione came to the house of Arbaces, he received her warmly and led her in. They passed through several beautiful halls filled with gold and other

costly things. Ione was filled with wonder at his wealth.

"I have heard," said she, "that you are very rich. But I never thought that you were so rich."

"I wish" said he, "that I could make all I have into a crown and place it on your head."

"Its weight would kill me," said Ione laughing.

Then they came to a large hall and suddenly, as if by magic, a table rose up from the floor. There was rich food on it and Arbaces invited Ione to sit down and eat.

When she had eaten Arbaces rose up to lead her out.

"Where are you taking me?" asked she.

"To the temple of the Fates," said he. "Would you not like to know your future."

He led her to a dark room where she saw the image of the goddess Isis. Arbaces knelt before it and prayed. Then the curtain behind the image went up and Ione saw a beautiful garden before her. In the garden there was a lovely girl and when the girl turned round, Ione saw that it was—herself!



Then a beautiful palace rose up before her and a man was seen taking her to the throne. His face was covered and she could not know who he was. "Do you want to see his face?" Arbaces asked.

"Yes," replied she.

The man uncovered his face and Ione uttered a cry of pain when she saw that it was—Arbaces!

"Ione," said he, "the gods have willed that you should be mine." Then he knelt

down before her and said, "Ione, I love you. Won't you be my wife?"

But Ione moved away from him saying, "I thank you, Arbaces, for asking me to be your wife. But I can never be yours, for I love another."

"But the gods have given you to me," he cried, "and you shall be mine." So saying he caught her up in his arms, but she turned round to escape from him. Then a letter fell down from her hand. It was the one that Nydia had brought to her from Glaucus.

Arbaces took it and read it.

"What" cried he, "are you in love with Glaucus? No! you are mine—only mine—thus will I have you."

Again he caught her in his arms.

At this moment the door was thrown open and Apaecides walked into the room with—Glaucus!

"Stop," cried Glaucus running up to the Egyptian while Ione fell senseless on the floor. Arbaces and Glaucus looked at each other with angry eyes. Then they fell upon each other and there was a long and fierce fight. But in the end Glaucus lost his footing and fell down. Arbaces jumped upon him and drew his dagger to kill him.

Just then something terrible happened. The earth began to shake!

A low rumbling sound was heard. The house and everything in it shook to and fro. The image of Isis fell down. It fell upon the Egyptian who was bending down to kill Glaucus and Arbaces lay on the floor as if dead.

"The Earth has saved her children," said Glaucus as he rose up and led Ione and her brother out of the hall. They made their way to the secret gate where Nydia was waiting for them. It was she

who had brought them there to save Ione!

A few weeks after this, a day was fixed for the marriage of Glaucus and Ione. Though Arbaces was still alive, he did nothing to stop it.

Meanwhile Apaecides had found a religion that have peace to his soul. About fifty years before this, Jesus Christ had died on the cross, and his followers were carrying the gospel to all parts of the world. Some of them had come to Italy and though the Romans illtreated them, they did not go away. One of them named Olinthus came to Pompeii and he chanced to meet the young priest and converted him to Christianity. When Olinthus came to know of the wicked ways in which Arbaces worshipped Isis, he said, "We must bring his wickedness to light so that people may give up the worship of Isis and follow the True God."

They agreed to meet in the garden near the temple to draw up their plans.

But Arbaces knew this from Calenus the priest and he went to the garden to overhear their talk. Calenus himself had come there and was hiding behind a tree. Then Apaecides came to the spot and when the Egyptian saw him coming he went up to him and said, "Friend, forgive me for the wrong I have done to your sister. But I am ready to marry her. Give her to me."

"Even if I give her to you," said Apaecides, "she won't be yours. Know that your evil ways shall be made known to all." Arbaces saw that he had to face a dangerous enemy who would destroy him if he did not destroy him first. So he asked, "What can you do against me?"

"I have found the True God," said he, "and in His name, I will put an end to your false gods."

"Die then," cried Arbaces as he struck him down with his dagger. Apaecides fell dead on the ground.

As Arbaces was bending down to see if he was dead he saw Glaucus coming that way. At once the Egyptian ran off and hid himself behind a tree. Glaucus came up and on seeing the dead body, he bent down to see who the dead person was. Then Arbaces jumped upon him and struck him to the ground. "Help, help" cried he, "murder, murder."

In a few minutes several people came running to the spot.

"Catch the murderer. Let him not escape," cried Arbaces pointing to Glaucus.

Soon a party of soldiers came to the place. "Who is the muderer?" asked the captain.

"Glaucus," said Arbaces.

"And who are you?"

"Arbaces," said he. "I am an Egyptian. I saw Glaucus killing the priest."

At this moment Olinthus the Christian came there. When he saw Apaecides lying dead on the ground he said, "I know who has killed him and why. It is the Egyptian. And he killed him because he was afraid his evil ways would be brought to the light of day."

"Who are you that say this?" asked Arbaces proudly. "Are you not a Christian who does not believe in the gods?"

"He is a Christian. He is a Christian, cried many voices. Take him away. Throw him to the lion."

The Captain turned to Olinthus and asked, "Have you any proof that Arbaces killed him?"

But Olinthus had nothing to give by way of proof.

"Away with Glaucus and Olinthus" cried the people. "Throw the Greek to the lion and the Christian to the tiger."

Glaucus and Olinthus were taken to prison and at the trial Arbaces told the court that he saw Glaucus killing Apaecides with his dagger. The Atheniau told the truth, but nobody believed him. The people who had come to see the trial, cried, "Throw one to the lion and the other to the tiger."

At last it was decided that Glaucus should be thrown to the lion and Olinthus to the tiger on the next day.

As soon as the sentence was given, Calenus the priest went to see Arbaces. He was hiding behind the tree when the Egyptian killed Apaecides and he had seen everything. He had only to tell the truth and Arbaces would be thrown to the lion instead of Glaucus.

"Arbaces," said he, "I was in the garden when you killed Apaecides. I was hiding behind the tree."

"Did you see it?"

"Yes."

"Were you alone?"

"Yes."

"Have you told anybody about it?"

"No."

"Not even to your relation, Burbo?"

"No."

"Why?"

"Because——

"I know. You wish to have me in your power. Well, what do you want of me?"

"You are rich, Arbaces," said Calenus. "People say you are richer than the Emperor himself. Give me gold."

"Come. You shall have gold. Come with me to my strong room and take as much gold as you can carry."

"You are very kind," said Calenus.

"Not without reason. If you say one word I am lost."

"That word shall never be spoken."

Soon they came to the room where gold was kept. Arbaces opened the door. "Go in," said he, "and take as much gold as you can carry." So saying he pushed Calenus into the room and locked it up.

"That word shall never be spoken," cried Arbaces. "Lie there till you die of hunger."

As Arbaces turned away from there he heard Calenus cry, "O, have pity on me."

But the gods did not leave Calenus to die. As soon as Arbaces was gone, he heard a sweet voice saying, "O priest, can you hear me."

"Who are you?" asked Calenus.

It was Nydia the blind girl. She was hiding behind the room when Arbaces and Calenus came there and she had heard every word they spoke.

"I know everything," said she. "Will you save Glaucus, if I set you free?"

"I will, I can."

"Then," said Nydia, "you shall be free."

"Go to the magistrate," said he, "bring soldiers to break open the door and set me free and I will save Glaucus."

So Nydia went away to tell Glaucus' friends about it and set him free.

**TEST** Complete the following sentences:--

1. Ione visited Arbaces who would have forced her to become his wife, but (Apaecides, Calenus, Clodius) saved her.
2. The earthquake saved Glaucus from (the soldiers, the people, Arbaces)
3. Arbaces killed (Calenus, Apaecides, Olinthus) and said Glaucus had done it.
4. Glaucus was to be thrown to (the tiger, the sea, the lion)
5. Arbaces shut up (Glaucus, Ione, Calenus) in a room and left (him, her) there to die.
6. But Nydia came to (save, kill, see) him.

## 5. THE LAST DAY OF POMPEII

It was a bright and beautiful day when the people of Pompeii came crowding to the amphitheatre to see Glaucus die. Over them rose the dark volcano which lay silent and still in the bright sunlight. As they sat waiting to see the cruel fight between the man and the lion no one thought of the volcano. Nobody thought that it would burst open and throw out fire and lava destroying the city completely.

"Bring out, Glaucus," cried the people "Bring Glaucus, Glaucus."

Glaucus and Olinthus were shut up in a room below.

'Hark,' cried the Christian. "They are calling out to see you die."

"O gods," prayed Glaucus kneeling down, "let me face the lion bravely."

"Gods!" cried Olinthus. "Have I not taught you that there is only one God. Pray to Him only, the True God."

At this moment the door opened and a voice was heard saying, "Glaucus, your time has come. The lion waits for you."

"I am ready," answered Glaucus proudly. Then he turned to Olinthus and said, "Friend, bless me before I go."

The Christian caught him in his arms and blessed him. Then he wept aloud.

"Why do you weep?" asked Glaucus.

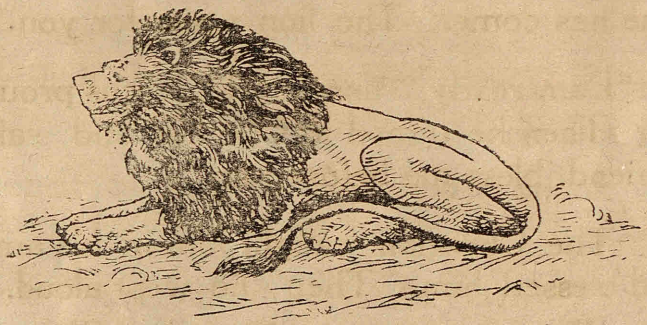
"If you had become a Christian," he answered, "I would not have wept for you. Then I might have said, To-night you shall sleep in Heaven."

"Then we shall meet again," said he, "though not on this beautiful earth."

Fearlessly he followed the officer who gave him a small dagger to fight with the lion. When he came to the place the lion's

cage was thrown open and with a loud roar the angry lion jumped out.

But instead of jumping upon the man, it ran round and round and then went back to its cage!



"How is this?" cried the people.

At this moment some of Glaucus' friends came running up to the magistrate. "Take away, Glaucus," cried they. "He did not kill Apaecides. It was Arbaces that killed him."

"Are you mad?" cried the magistrate rising from his seat.

"Here is the man who saw Arbaces killing him," said they as they pushed Calenus before the magistrate.

"It is Calenus, the priest" said he, "stand forth, Calenus. What have you to say?"

"I saw Arbaces kill Apaecides," said he.

"So Glaucus is not guilty," said the magistrate. "That was why the lion did not kill him."

So he ordered the officers to remove Glaucus.

"Throw Arbaces to the lion," cried the people. "Arbaces to the lion." They rose up and rushed forward to where he sat. Arbaces saw that his time had come.

Just then they saw a fearful sight. There was fire on Mount Visuvius and the flame shot up into the sky.

"Look," cried Arbaces, "the gods are angry for saying that I killed him."

'The volcano, the volcano' cried a thousand voices. The people saw the fire.

Mad with fear they rushed out of the amphitheatre.

At this moment there was a terrible earth-quake and houses and trees began to fall down. A cloud of smoke hid the sun and there was darkness at midday. Then there was a rain of fire, melting rocks and red-hot pieces of stone.

Men and women ran for their lives. But where could they go? How could they see their way in the darkness?

Nydia was waiting for Glaucus at the door.

"I saved you," cried she joyfully when he came out.

"Nydia, Nydia, my child," said Glaucus as he took her by the hand.

Meanwhile the officers had left the place. It was dark as night and Glaucus did not know the way. But blind Nydia led him away. Darkness was as light to her, and she led him safely through the

M. M. Abdulla Kutty



streets. First she took him to Ione who was in the house of Arbaces. Together they came out hoping to save their lives by going to the beach. But the way was long and Ione who was tired could not walk.

"Glaucus," cried she, "I can bear no more."

"Ione, sweet Ione," said he trying to help her, "bear up a little longer and we are safe. We shall get into a ship and sail away."

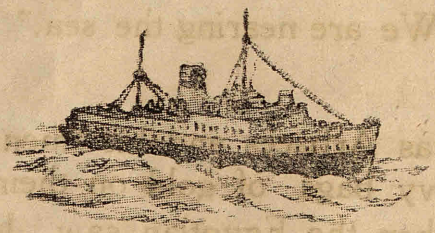
Just then a party of men came that way. "We are nearing the sea," cried the leader.

It was Arbaces and his men. They had heavy bags of gold on their shoulders. When the Egyptian saw Ione and Glaucus he said, "The gods are with me. Stand back, Glaucus and leave Ione to me if you wish to live."

"False priest," cried Glaucus, "I will kill you if you touch her."

Arbaces drew his sword and stepped forward to kill the Greek. But it was his last step. For at that moment there was another earth-quake and Arbaces fell down. A pillar fell on him and he died.

Again Glaucus put his arm round Ione and helped her to go forward. Led by Nydia, they reached the seashore where they saw a ship ready to sail away.



Quickly they got into the ship and sailed out into the sea. From the ship they saw the angry mountain sending out fire and

smoke. A river of lava flowed down and covered up the city of Pompeii.

But away in the sea, Glaucus and Ione were safe. They were so tired that they lay down on the deck and fell fast asleep. Nydia sat watching them. Just before sun-rise she rose up and bending over Glaucus, she kissed him in his sleep. She felt for his hand—but it was locked in that of Ione.

"God bless you," said she as she kissed him. "May you be happy. Beloved Glaucus, think of me sometimes when I am gone."

She kissed him again and then turned away. Slowly she walked to the other side of the ship and the sailor who lay asleep there heard something fall into the sea. He looked out and saw something white above the water. But it sank quickly and he saw nothing more.

When Glaucus and Ione woke up in the morning, they looked for Nydia, but she was not to be seen. They guessed what had happened and wept for her as they would for a dear sister. But neither of them knew how dearly she had loved Glaucus and the great sacrifice that she had made on that account.

TEST. Complete the following sentences:--

1. Glaucus was thrown to the lion, but it (ate, killed, did not kill) him.
2. Calenus told the magistrate that it was (Arbaces, Glaucus) that killed Apaecides.
3. So Glaucus was saved, but the people wanted (Calenus, Arbaces, Olinthus) to be thrown to the lion.
4. At that moment the volcano burst and it was dark as (night, midnight)
5. Nydia led Glaucus and (Clodius, Ione, Calenus) to the seashore and they escaped in a ship.
6. Nydia jumped into the (ship, fire, sea) and died.

# FINAL TEST

Complete the following sentences:—

1. The Last Days of Pompeii is a (drama, novel, short story) by Lord Lytton, an English novelist.
2. It deals with the destruction of the city of (Rome, Naples, Pompeii) in A. D. 79 when Mount Visuvius burst open and covered up the city with lava.
3. The hero of the novel is a handsome Athenian named (Glaucus, Arbaces, Apaecides)
4. He fell in love with a beautiful girl called (Nydia, Ione) whom a cunning Egyptian named (Calenus, Arbaces, Burbo) wanted to marry.
5. Glaucus bought a beautiful but blind slave girl namad (Burbo,

Nydia, Isis) and gave her to Ione as a present.

6. Nydia who loved (Clodius, Glaucus, Ione) truly, helped him very much. She gave his letter to (Ione, Apaecides) and took her reply to him.

7. Nydia told Apaecides that Ione had gone to the house of (Clodius, Arbaces, Isis) and led him and Glaucus to the place.

8. They saved Ione from the Egyptian who would have forced her to be his (pupil, wife, priest.)

9. Apaecides met Olinthus and he became a (Jew, Christian, Greek.)

10. (Arbaces, Glaucus, Olinthus) killed Apaecides and said that (Calenus, Glaucus, Burbo) had done it.

11. Glaucus was thrown to the (tiger, lion, sea). But Nydia set (Calenus,

Clodius, Ione) free and he told the truth to the magistrate.

12. The people wanted to throw (Arbaces, Clodius, Nydia) to the lion, but at that moment the volcano burst.

13. Then it grew dark as night but Nydia led Ione and Glaucus safely to the (mountain, sea, river.)

14. Arbaces died when a (roof, pillar, tree) fell upon him.

15. Glaucus, escaped with Ione and Nydia in a ship, but (Ione, Nydia) jumped into the sea and died.

16. The most interesting character in the novel is (Nydia, Arbaces, Ione) who loved Glaucus truly and saved him and the girl he loved many times.

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