

CHAPTER 4

In Which Phileas Fogg Astounds
Passepartout, His Servant

Having won twenty guineas* at whist, and taken leave of his friends, Phileas Fogg, at twenty-five minutes past seven, left the Reform Club.

Passepartout, who had conscientiously studied the programme of his duties, was more than surprised to see his master guilty of the inexactness of appearing at this unaccustomed hour; for, according to rule, he was not due in Saville Row until precisely midnight.

Mr. Fogg repaired to his bedroom, and called out, "Passepartout!"

Passepartout did not reply. It could not be he who was called; it was not the right hour.

"Passepartout!" repeated Mr. Fogg, without raising his voice.

Passepartout made his appearance.

"I've called you twice," observed his master.

"But it is not midnight," responded the other, showing his watch.

"I know it; I don't blame you. We start for Dover* and Calais* in ten minutes."

A puzzled grin overspread Passepartout's round face; clearly he had not comprehended his master.

"Monsieur is going to leave home?"

"Yes," returned Phileas Fogg. "We are going round the world."

Passepartout opened wide his eyes, raised his eyebrows, held up his hands, and seemed about to collapse, so overcome was he with stupefied astonishment.

"Round the world!" he murmured.

"In eighty days," responded Mr. Fogg. "So we haven't a moment to lose."

"But the trunks?" gasped Passepartout, unconsciously swaying his head from right to left.

"We'll have no trunks; only a carpet-bag, with two shirts and three pairs of stockings for me, and the same for you. We'll buy our clothes on the way. Bring down my mackintosh* and traveling-cloak, and some stout shoes, though we shall do little walking. Make haste!"

Passepartout tried to reply, but could not. He went out, mounted to his own room, fell into a chair, and muttered: "That's good, that is! And I, who wanted to remain quiet!"

He mechanically set about making the preparations for departure. Around the

Compare Fogg's expressionless demeanor with Passepartout's dramatic gesturing.

Why does he assume they will do little walking?



Why does he assume they will do little walking?

A. He assumes they will travel mostly by ships and trains, in accordance with the schedule in the newspaper.

HELPFUL
DEFINITIONS

- guineas** — British coins valued at a pound and a shilling.
- Dover** — English city bordering the English Channel.
- Calais** — French port city. The obvious route to France was by boat across the English Channel.
- mackintosh** — raincoat named for the inventor of its waterproof fabric.



What noble quality is evident from Fogg's remark?
A. Consideration is evidenced by Fogg's words. He is a true gentleman whose kind words are as great as his charitable actions.

What noble quality is evident from Fogg's remark?

world in eighty days! Was his master a fool? No. Was this a joke, then? They were going to Dover; good! To Calais; good again! After all, Passepartout, who had been away from France five years, would not be sorry to set foot on his native soil again. Perhaps they would go as far as Paris, and it would do his eyes good to see Paris once more. But surely a gentleman so *chary* of his steps would stop there; no doubt — but, then, it was nonetheless true that he was going away, this so domestic* person *hitherto*!

By eight o'clock Passepartout had packed the modest carpetbag, containing the wardrobes of his master and himself; then, still troubled in mind, he carefully shut the door of his room, and descended to Mr Fogg.

Mr. Fogg was quite ready. Under his arm might have been observed a red-bound copy of Bradshaw's *Continental Railway Steam Transit and General Guide*, with its timetables showing the arrival and departure of steamers and railways.

He took the carpetbag, opened it, and slipped into it a goodly roll of Bank of England notes, which would pass* wherever he might go.

"You have forgotten nothing?" asked he.

"Nothing, monsieur."

"My mackintosh and cloak?"

"Here they are."

"Good! Take this carpetbag," handing it to Passepartout. "Take good care of it, for there are twenty thousand pounds* in it."

Passepartout nearly dropped the bag, as if the twenty thousand pounds were in gold, and weighed him down.

Master and man then descended, the street-door was double-locked, and at

the end of Saville Row they took a cab and drove rapidly to Charing Cross. The cab stopped before the railway station at twenty minutes past eight. Passepartout jumped off the box and followed his master, who, after paying the cabman, was about to enter the station, when a poor beggar-woman, with a child in her arms, her naked feet smeared with mud, her head covered with a wretched bonnet, from which hung a tattered feather, and her shoulders shrouded in a ragged shawl, approached, and mournfully asked for *alms*.

Mr. Fogg took out the twenty guineas he had just won at whist, and handed them to the beggar, saying, "Here, my good woman. I'm glad that I met you"; and passed on.

Passepartout had a moist sensation about the eyes; his master's action touched his *susceptible* heart.

Two first-class tickets for Paris having been speedily purchased, Mr. Fogg was crossing the station to the train, when he perceived his five friends of the Reform.

"Well, gentlemen," said he, "I'm off, you see; and, if you will examine my passport when I get back, you will be able to judge whether I have accomplished the journey agreed upon."

"Oh, that would be quite unnecessary, Mr. Fogg," said Ralph politely. "We will trust your word, as a gentleman of honour."

"You do not forget when you are due in London again?" asked Stuart.

"In eighty days; on Saturday, the 21st of December, 1872, at a quarter before nine p.m. Good-bye, gentlemen."

Phileas Fogg and his servant seated

HELPFUL DEFINITIONS

domestic — here, home-loving.

pass — be accepted; Bank of England notes (bills) were accepted all over the world.

twenty thousand pounds — approximately 100,000 American dollars.

themselves in a first-class carriage at twenty minutes before nine; five minutes later the whistle screamed, and the train slowly glided out of the station.

The night was dark, and a fine, steady rain was falling. Phileas Fogg, snugly *ensconced* in his corner, did not open his lips. Passepartout, not yet recovered from his *stupefaction*, clung mechanically to the carpetbag, with its enormous treasure.

Just as the train was whirling through Sydenham, Passepartout suddenly uttered a cry of despair.

"What's the matter?" asked Mr. Fogg.

"Alas! In my hurry — I — I forgot — "

"What?"

"To turn off the gas* in my room!"

"Very well, young man," returned Mr. Fogg, coolly; "it will burn — at your expense."

How does this remark contrast with Fogg's behavior to the beggar-woman?



London railway station in the latter half of the 19th century.

HELPFUL DEFINITIONS

gas — the gas lamp.



How does this remark contrast with Fogg's behavior to the beggar-woman?
A. Fogg has no patience with irresponsibility. The poverty-stricken woman needs kindness as well as money and Fogg supplies both. His servant, however, is careless and Fogg believes that it is only natural that Passepartout suffer the consequences.



LITERARY CRITIQUE

- 1. The charity he gave consisted of his winnings. Clearly, the 20 guineas could have come in handy on his journey.
- 2. The servant will have to pay the gas bill, which, after 80 days, will be considerable.
- 3. We are meant to identify with Passepartout, because Fogg does not represent common man. Furthermore, Passepartout is presented as a man who reveals his emotions, whereas Fogg is a private person. We might conjecture about Fogg’s feelings. We might assume he experiences fear, excitement, and anticipation, but it is far more likely that curiosity and determination are his overriding emotions. We must not forget that Fogg is a man on a mission and his desire to prove his theory is what drives him.

VOCABULARY WORDS

- alms** (ămz), *n.* charity.
- cha•ry** (châr’ē), *adj.* cautious.
- en•sconced** (en skons’d), *v.* settled snugly; sheltered.
- hith•er•to** (hih’ər tōō’), *adv.* up to this time.
- stu•pe•fac•tion** (stōō’pə fak’shən), *n.* the state of astonishment.
- sus•cep•ti•ble** (sə sep’tə bəl), *adj.* impressionable; responsive.



LITERARY CRITIQUE

- 1. What proof is there that Fogg played whist for recreation and not to make money?
- 2. How will Passepartout suffer for his carelessness?
- 3. Why does the author describe the emotions Passpartout experiences at any given moment, but leaves Fogg’s feelings as a mystery?



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The 19th century saw the slow decay of the **class system** which had existed in Europe for over a thousand years. A shift in economy forced landowning nobility to give way to thriving factory owners and businessmen. However, the Industrial Revolution, which had brought record prosperity to the middle class, also delivered a life of drudgery and poverty to the working class. Working conditions were poor and unstable. Thousands flocked to the city to find work in the mills, only to join the growing ranks of the unemployed. Even those who were lucky enough to find work were unable to make more than a day’s sustenance. Where job security, disability, and pensions were unheard of, unmitigated poverty was just a heartbeat away.

The rising middle class had a difficult time reconciling the poverty in their midst with the economic boom among their own class. Several beliefs kept them from reaching out to help the indigents. The first was that Victorians held to a stringent work ethic, which maintained that industry and sobriety would end poverty. Staunch capitalists, the middle class resisted state interference between master and worker. Their own experiences gave them reason to believe that their new-found prosperity would eventually eradicate poverty for good. Finally, their faith taught them that virtue was rewarded and vice was punished, effectively blaming the poor for their own misfortunes. Charity from the middle class meant distinguishing the “deserving poor” from the rest.



VOCABULARY WORDS

Exercises for the following words will appear at the end of Part I.

alms chary ensconced hitherto stupefaction susceptible