

Arms and the Man Quotations

Act one

"You can't guess how splendid it is. A cavalry charge! Think of 1-that! He defied our Russian commanders' acted without orders Led a charge on his own responsibility headed it himself was the first man to sweep through their guns?" P.No16

-The speaker of these lines is Catherine to her daughter Raina, telling her about the victory over the Serbs which was done by her fiancée, Sergius. She says to her that Sergius disobeyed his Russian commanders. Led a charge on his own responsibility, head it himself, and he was the first man, who attacked and stood before the Serbs guns, he was the hero of Bulgaria. And this an irony, because this situation shows us that Sergius has no knowledge about the art of war because he disobeyed the orders of his commanders and threw himself and his soldiers in front of fires guns of the Serbs, but fortunately the enemy has the wrong ammunition to shoot them.

2-"I doubted him I wondered whether all his heroic qualities and his Soldiership might not prove mere imagination when He went into a real battle. I had an uneasy fear that he Might cut a poor figure there beside all those clever officers from the Tsar's court." P. No 17

-The speaker of these lines is Raina to her mother when Catherine told her about the glorious victory of the Bulgarians over the Serbs which was done by Sergius. Raina blames herself for thinking that Sergius's heroic qualities and his soldiership might only imagination not true and he is nothing among the professional officers of the court, but after the victory, she would never forgive herself for such a way of thinking.

3-"I wish our people were not so cruel. What Glory is there in killing-wretched fugitives?" P. No 18

-The speaker of these lines is Raina to her maid Louka when Louka told her that some Serbs fugitives ran away from the battlefield



towards the street and the Bulgarian cavalry try to arrest or to kill them. Rania wished her people were not so cruel to do that, she wonders what the glory in killing such wretched and miserable fugitives? She believes that streets are not a proper place for killing. The above lines give us an idea about how Raina is a sensitive young lady and she has a kind and soft heart.

4- "*This the happiest night of my life _ if only there are no fugitive*"
P No 18

-Raina said that to her mother describing that night, the night of victory, the night of her fiancée who achieved that victory. Rania was so happy at that time, and since she is a Romantic and imaginative, she wants to celebrate the victory of Sergius. But the fugitive and the gunfire interrupted her celebration. However, this a dramatic irony because Raina will meet the fugitive and fall in love with him and finally marry him.

P. No 20 5- "*If you raise your voice my revolver will go off*"

-A man's voice, Bluntschli, said that to the young lady Raina when he climbed the water pipe to her room throughout the balcony running away from the gunfire of the Bulgarian army. However he ordered her to keep silent otherwise, he will shoot her. This quotation is also an irony, because his revolver (pistol) is empty of bullets, and has chocolate instead of cartridges.

6- "*I know, are afraid of death*"¹

"All of them, dear lady, all of them, believe me. It is our duty to
P. No 21 *live as long as we can*"²

¹ - Raina said that to the man (Bluntschli) who entered her room. When he ordered her to keep silent or he will kill her. Raina says that to express that he is afraid to die, and she felt that through his voice and his appearance. Raina believes that a soldier should die

on the battlefield with his honour rather than to escape and threat peaceful women.

-²Bluntschli said that to Raina when she told him that he is afraid to die. He said to her that all the soldiers are afraid of death because their duty is to keep themselves alive along as possible. The above quotation shows to us that Bluntschli is a practical man who believes in reality rather than idealism.

7- "I'll keep the cloak and you will Take care that nobody comes in and sees you without it. This is a better weapon than the revolver"
P. No 21

-Bluntschli said that to Raina when he took her gown in his hand to prevent her to allow anyone entering her room and sees her wearing the slumber wear only. He knew that Raina as a proud and respectful lady will not allow anyone to see her without a gown. This situation shows us that Bluntschli is a smart man because he can use anything as a weapon instead of his empty revolver.

8- "The first man in will find out. Keep out the way, and don't look. It won't last long, but it will not be nice" P. No 22

-Bluntschli said that to Raina, he throws her gown at her to wear it. At that time Bulgarian army entered the Petkoff's hose to search for the fugitive. However, he asked Raina to move aside and do not look, because there would be a bloody battle and a lady should not see blood or tragic things. This situation indicates that Bluntschli is a gentleman, brave and not a coward as Raina was thinking.

9-"One of those beasts of Serbs has been seen climbing up the water

P. No 23 Pipe to your balcony. Our men want to search for him"

-The maid (Louka) said that to Raina. She told her that the

Bulgarian Cavalry want to search for a fugitive who climbed the water pipe to her balcony. This situation is an irony because the fugitive is already in Raina's room. Louka then sees the revolver of the fugitive on the bed, but she freezes in her place without a word.

10- "*A narrow shave; but a miss is as good as a mile. Dear young lady: your servant to death. I wish for your sake I had joined the P. Bulgarian army instead of the other one. I am not a native Serb*"
No 24

-Bluntschli said that to Raina after she had saved him from the Bulgarian soldiers wishing to be in her army for her sake not with the Serbs. These situations express that he begins like Raina because, she young, beautiful, sensitive and brave enough to protect and save him.

11- "*Austrian! Not I. don't hate me, dear young lady. I am a Swiss, fighting merely as a professional soldier. I joined the Serbs because they came first one the road from Switzerland. Be generous you've beaten us hollow*" P. No 24

-Bluntschli says that to Raina when she told him that he is one of the Austrian who encouraged the Serbs to invaded Bulgaria and rob the national library. Bluntschli replies to her that he is Swiss fighting merely as a professional soldier. He joined the Serbian army accidentally because they had come first to his land. Asking her to be more generous with him.

"*I've no ammunition. What use are cartridges in battle? I 12- always carry chocolate instead, and I finished the last cake of that hours ago*" P. No 25

-Bluntschli says that to Raina when she asks him to reload his revolver with bullets. He tells her that he always carries chocolate instead of ammunition. He added, what is the benefit of the ammunition if the soldiers are hungry and disable to fight? He tells her that, he ate the last cake before many hours ago.



"Chocolate! Do you stuff your pockets with sweets—like a schoolboy even in the field?" P. No 25

-Raina said that in surprise to Bluntschli when he told her that he always carries chocolate instead of bullets. Raina portrays him as a schoolboy. Raina's speech expresses that she looks at the soldiers as heroes and the duty of them is to fight with their guns bravely or to die on the battlefield. However, her idealism is broken when she knows that Bluntschli carries sweet during the battle and under the gunfire.

14-"I should think so. You haven't been under fire for three days as I have. I can stand two days without chewing it much, but no man can stand three days" P. No 26

-The speaker of these lines is Bluntschli to Raina when she told Bluntschli that she is stronger and braver than him. Thus Bluntschli replies to her that she never tries to be in the battlefield under gunfire for three days, he added that he can bear for two days, but no one can stand there for three days continuously without food to eat.

Act Two

15- "If you quarrel with the family, I never can marry you. It's the same as if you quarrelled with me!" P. No 35

-This quotation is said by the manservant (Nicola) to the maid (Louka) in the garden of the Petkoff's. Nicola and Louka are engaged. However, he advises her to be more polite with the Petkoffs and do not defy or quarrel with them. When she fights them as if she fights with him and he will not marry her.

16- "You have the soul of a servant, Nicola

Yes: that's the secret of success in service." P. No 36

-The above two quotations are said between Louka and Nicola.



They seem to understand the terms of their debate, but it is their underlying attitudes toward those terms that dictate their behaviour. Nicola can, fundamentally, accept the task of a servant. It is the office into which he was born, and he believes that the way best to behave nobly is to accept the strictures on his life that being a servant provides. For Nicola, one behaves to do best by one's masters, and nothing more. For him, this is his kind of nobility or a kind of high-mindedness, and to do many different would be to behave dishonorably.

Louka, however, sees these social considerations as open to change. She doesn't believe that being born a servant means one has to accept this mantle or behave that way for the rest of one's life. Louka instead wants to do everything she can, within her capacity as a servant, to upend social hierarchies. Her goal is to achieve a nobility not just of manner, as perhaps Nicola has in his dependability, but of actual practice. She wants to be a lady.

17- "You are a barbarian at heart still, Paul. I hope you behaved yourself before all those Russian officers" P. No 39

-Catherine said that to her husband Major Paul Petkoff when he mentioned taking shower every day, He was so proud of his father who never takes a bath during his entire life, and live to be 98 years old. While Major Petkoff prefers to take a shower once a week. However, Catherine, the snobbish lady blames her husband for his bad habit and calls him as a barbarian, she wishes that he behave well before the Russian officers.

18- "But you didn't tell them that we have an electric bell in it? I have had one put up" P. No 39



-Catherine said that to her husband Major Petkoff when they were sitting in the garden talking about the peace treaty under the supervision of the Russian officers. The Petkoffs installed an electric bell to summon the servants rather than to shout for them. Catherine, the snobbish lady wants her husband to be proud in front of the Russian, and to indicate that the Petkoffs are civilized family.

19- "I am no longer a soldier. Soldiering, my dear madam, is the coward's art of attacking mercilessly when you are strong and keeping out of harm's way when you are weak. That is the whole secret of successful fighting. Get your enemy at a disadvantage; and never, on any account, fight him on equal terms" P. No 42-43

-Sergius said that to his mother in law Catherine when he returns from the field. The realities of war have shattered his romantic ideals and left him bitter. The traditional notions of honour and bravery that he carried with him to the battlefield resulted in actions that would have caused widespread and needless death if not for a small coincidence. Consequently, his advancement through the ranks is halted and he resigns from his post. Sergius deeply resents the more pragmatic and efficient methods championed by modern armies, attacking them as cowardly or morally weak. Yet the young Major's cynicism indicates that Sergius, like Raina, will eventually be able to drop the façade of romanticism and lead a more practical and happy life.

20- "All Austrians, just as our officers were all Russians. This was the only Swiss, I came across. I'll never trust a Swiss again. He cheated us—humbugged us into giving him fifty able-bodied men for two hundred confounded worn out chargers. They weren't even eatable!" P. No 42

-The speaker of this quotation is major Petkoff to his family



(Catherine, Raina and her fiancée Sergius He was talking about the peace treaty between the Serbian army with the supervision of Austria and the Bulgarian army, then major Petkoff mentioned that he met a very smart Swiss officer (Bluntschli) who can befool the Bulgarian negotiators by exchanging 50 well-built men for 200 weak, useless and even uneatable horses)

21- "I think we two have found higher love. When I think of you, I feel

P. That I could never do a base deed, or think an ignoble thought"

No 45

--The speaker of these lines is Raina to her fiancée in the garden after he returns from war. They speak adoringly to one another, as knight and lady, but in spite of their rhetoric, both are secretly attracted to other more earthy mates. Raina starts to like Bluntschli while Sergius has a secret feeling toward the maid Louka.

22- "Which of the six is the real man? That's the question that torments me. One of them is a hero, another a buffoon, another a humbug, another perhaps a bit of a blackguard. (He pauses and looks furtively at Louka, as he adds with deep bitterness) And one, at least, is a coward—jealous, like all cowards" P. No 48

-Sergius said that to himself (soliloquy) when he tries to kiss Louka but she rejected him and she accused him of being hypocrite similar to the hypocrisy of Raina (Raina is attracted to Bluntschli) Thus Sergius calls a devil, Louka replies that Sergius has six characters in one and being a devil is among them.

23-"You know how to hurt with your tongue as well as with your hands. But I don't care, now I've found out that whatever clay I'm made of, you're made of the same. As for her, she's a liar; and her fine airs are a cheat, and I'm worth six of her" P. No 49



-Louka says this to Sergius who flirts with her as soon as Raina is out of sight. At that time, Sergius twisted Louka's arms and accused of being a liar when she mentioned that Raina hides a man in her room. Thus Louka said that Raina and she are a human being and God created them from the same clay and she worth six times of Raina. However, Louka deflates his noble ideals by pointing out his hypocrisy. The upper classes are no better behaved than the lower classes.

Act Three

24- "Do you know, you are the first man I ever met who did not take me seriously?" P. No 63

-Bluntschli has just told Raina he knows she lies. Raina thinks Bluntschli is teasing her (and thus, not taking her seriously) when he is doing her the favour of treating her as someone with intelligent thoughts. Bluntschli replies that he is the first man to take her seriously. This is likely very true. The audience sees in Raina's parents a good example of two people who never seem to take each other seriously. Catherine lies to her husband all the time, and Petkoff never listens to her ideas and opinions.

"25- "You were born to be a servant. I was not. When you set up your shop you will only be everybody's servant instead of somebody's servant" P. No 68

-The speaker of this quotation is Louka to her fiancée Nicola. Louka scolds Nicola for having the soul of a servant. He declares he is saving his money to open a shop, but she sees that as merely a different sort of servitude. Louka has an ambition to be a lady, and she will be, thus she criticizes Nicola several times because she believes that her marriage to Nicola will not help her to achieve her dream.

26 "I will not be a coward and a trifler. If I choose to love you, I dare marry you, in spite of all Bulgaria. If these hands ever touch



P. No 71 *you again, they shall touch my affianced bride"*

-Sergius said that to Louka when he woos her several times. Sergius is being teased and prodded by Louka that he is not brave enough to marry outside of his class. This elicits Sergius's stubborn pride in his independence. However, Sergius replies that he is not a coward and he will not touch Louka again unless she becomes his wife.

27"The world is not such an innocent place as we used to think"

P. No 79

-Sergius says this line to a bewildered Major Petkoff, as the Major discovers that his daughter is after another man (Bluntschli) than her fiancé, Sergius. This remark is in keeping with Sergius's pose of romantic disillusionment about love and war.