

# ENGLISH



## THE OLD-CLOCK SHOP

~Summary~

-by Khushwant Singh

The **story** took place in an **old-clock shop** in **Salt Lake City** during the **Christmas Eve**. Ray, its owner, was an **old deaf man**. Having finished the work, Ray stood up and was on his way to the **backroom** when the **front door opened**. There were two men: one was in his **twenties**, and the other was about **fifty**. The **younger man** stood at the **door** while the **older one** approached **Ray**. The latter looked **unfriendly**, and his eyes suggested that they were there to **steal**.

Hiding his **fear**, Ray pushed his **notepad** and a **pencil** across the counter to communicate with his visitor. He then explained to the **man** that he was **deaf**. Meanwhile, Ray took a closer look at the man and realised that he held a **gun** in his **right coat-pocket**. Though Ray knew the ill-intentions behind the men's visit, he wrote a **message** pointing at the '**loan board**'. He asked whether the man had come back to **retrieve** his **clock** or watch that he had **pledged**.

Though Ray wasn't a **pawnbroker**, he loaned **interest-free money** to the **needy**. The man soon **started** to feel at ease. He looked at his **wristwatch** and asked him how much it was **worth**. Ray gave him a **fifty-dollar note** though the watch wasn't of much **value**. Meanwhile, the man's **unfriendly eyes** had turned **grateful** as he experienced **kindness** and **compassion**. He promised **Ray** that he would come back to **pay** him **back**.

As the story ended, all the **clocks** and **timepieces** struck 12 in **harmony**. The music from the clocks filled the shop with **hope**, and the three men realised the **timeless message** of Christmas: '**Peace on earth, goodwill towards all**'.



### ~Conclusion~

Ray's story shows that good behaviour and kind treatment can melt every heart. With his good nature, he manages to thwart the bad intentions of the two men. Instead of resorting to violence or bloodshed, they leave amicably.

This also teaches us that we should not panic or allow fear to overcome our senses in difficult situations. When handled with alertness and humanly understanding, even the most dangerous situations can be resolved peacefully.