

MYSTERY QUOTATION

In order to encourage everyone to re-read *Tarka* at this anniversary time as a mark of respect to the book and its author, your President has chosen a selection of passages from *Tarka*. Your task is to identify all these passages and say briefly what is happening at those points in the story. The passages are:

- (i) *Seen by day from the hilltops, the river lay in its course like a viper broken by a buzzard's beak and claws, marked with brown on its twisted and bluish-white coils.*
- (ii) *Yellow from ash and elm and willow, buff from oak, rusty brown from the chestnut, scarlet from bramble — the water bore away the first coloured leaves of the year.*
- (iii) *The weir in flood was an immense loom in sunlight; the down-falling water-warp was whitey-yellow with bubbles; to and fro across the weir moved the air-hollows, a weft held by a glistening water-shuttle.*
- (iv) *The moon arose in its orbit, white and cold, awaiting through the ages the swoop of a new sun, the shock of starry talons to shatter the Icicle Spirit in a rain of fire. In the south strode Orion the Hunter, with Sirius the Dogstar baying green fire at his heels.*
- (v) *Since childhood she had walked the Devon rivers with her father looking for flowers and the nests of birds, passing some rocks and trees as old friends, seeing a Spirit everywhere, gentle in thought to all her eyes beheld.*

There was a good response to the Mystery Quotation in the Spring 1987 issue. The answer being the last paragraph of the last chapter of *The Phasian Bird*.

The name that Richard drew out was that of GARY TYAS of Aldershot, Hants., who has been sent a photograph of Henry. Thank you all for your interest.