**Questions on Rhetoric and Style**: **“Shooting an Elephant” by George Orwell**

1. Explain the implied assumption underlying the statement in the first sentence.
2. Describe the nature of the voice in the opening paragraph. Note instances of humor and irony.
3. In the second paragraph, what is suggested by the qualifiers “and secretly, of course” and “if you can catch him off duty”?
4. Note Orwell’s language in paragraph 5. What are the rhetorical effects of “merely ravaging their homes” and “as it would be to an English crowd”?
5. In paragraph 6 Orwell states, “As soon as I saw the elephant I knew with perfect certainty that I ought not to shoot him.” Why, then, does he decide to shoot the elephant? Refer to specific factors that influence his decision.
6. Compare and contrast the description of killing the elephant as related in paragraphs 10-13 with that of the killing of the Indian in paragraph 4. Consider the rhetorical purpose of the descriptions.
7. Discuss Orwell’s tone and attitude in the final paragraph.

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