2/9/19.

The Bishop's Candlesticks.

Reference to the Context.

1. Identification
2. Brief summary
3. Explaining the context: How, why the lines were spoken.

Q. "You have your soul to lose, my son, it is of more value than my heart"

Ans The given lines have been extracted from the play, "The Bishop's Candlesticks" written by Norman McKinnel. The lines have been spoken by the Bishop to the Convict.

"The Bishop's Candlesticks" is a dramatic adaptation from Victor Hugo's Les Miserables. The Bishop with his kindness and love redeems the convict and transforms him from a beast to a man.

One night when the Bishop sat to read after his supper, a hardened criminal entered the Bishop's house and seized the Bishop from behind with a long knife. The convict demanded in earnest for food as he had not eaten anything for three days.

The Bishop who was a kind man showed real concern for the hungry traveller and wanted to call Persome to give the keys for the cupboard.

But the Convict suspected the Bishop's intentions, thinking that he would try to rouse the house and get the Convict into trouble. He told the Bishop that he was "Too old a bird to be caught with chaff" and does not want any excuse but food as he was too hungry. The Bishop however assured him that he had nothing to fear for the only occupants in the house were his sister and he himself. The convict was in doubt but agreed to let the Bishop call on Person with the condition that if he played him false, he would pay for the treachery with the forfeit of his life as the convict had nothing to lose.

To this the Bishop stated, "You have your soul to lose, my son, it is of more value than my habit." This means that the Convict may have lost everything in relation to worldly matters but in committing murder, he would also lose his soul. The soul of any man lives on when life has stopped throbbing but life and its material wealth is transitory which at some point or the other will fade.