

Chapter 4: In the Kingdom of Fools

THINK ABOUT IT

Question 1:

What are the two strange things the guru and his disciple find in the Kingdom of Fools?

Answer:

The Guru and the disciple found that in the Kingdom of Fools, people used to work during nights and sleep during days. Everything was cheap and costed the same.

Question 2:

Why does the disciple decide to stay in the Kingdom of Fools? Is it a good idea?

Answer:

The disciple decide to stay in the Kingdom of Fools, because everything was cheap there, and all he wanted was good, cheap food. It was not a good idea to stay there for a long time because of the unpredictable behaviour of fools.

Question 3:

Name all the people who are tried in the king's court, and give the reasons for their trial.

Answer:

The owner of the house i.e. the merchant, the bricklayer, the dancing girl and the goldsmith were tried in the king's court. They all were tried because the thief died when the wall of merchant's house had collapsed. The merchant was tried for building a weak wall. The bricklayer was tried for doing his work carelessly. The dancing girl was tried for disturbing the concentration of the bricklayer. The goldsmith was blamed for making the dancing girl walk up and down to his house a dozen times.

Question 4:

Who is the real culprit according to the king? Why does he escape punishment?

Answer:

According to the king the merchant's dead father was the true murderer. But since the rich merchant had inherited both his riches and sins, he was made responsible for the horrible crime. He escaped the punishment because he was too thin to fit the stake.

Question 5:

What are the Guru's words of wisdom? When does the disciple remember them?

Answer:

The Guru's words of wisdom were, "They are all fools. This won't last very long, and you can't tell what they'll do to you next". The disciple remembered them when he was arrested by the men of the king to execute merely because he fitted the stake.

Question 6:

How does the Guru manage to save his disciple's life?

Answer:

The Guru arrived on time to save his disciple and created a drama. He told the king that it was not an ordinary stake and whoever went to the stake first would become the king in next life. The second to die would become his minister. The king himself wanted to avail the opportunity. The Guru and his disciple were released. Thus the Guru managed to save his disciple's life.