

Long Answer Questions

① Describe why Bholi refuses to marry Bishamber.

Ans- After Bholi's education, her parents decided to marry her to Bishamber, the grocer. Bishamber was a rich man who owned a big house and a good shop. He was about forty five or fifty. He walked with a limp. He had children by his first wife who were quite grown up. Still Bholi's parents fixed her marriage to this man. On the marriage day, Bishamber came with a party of friends and relations. At the appointed time, Bholi was to be garlanded by Bishamber. Before putting the garland round Bholi's neck, Bishamber noticed the pock marks on her face. He hesitated and then demanded five thousand rupees as dowry. Ram Lal somehow managed to offer five thousand rupees but Bholi put her foot down. She angrily threw the garland into the fire and asked her ~~to take~~ father to take back his money. She said, she would prefer to remain single than be married to a mean who was greedy and contemptible.

② How was Bholi her teacher's masterpiece?

Ans- Bholi had entered school as a fear-stricken child with not an ounce of confidence in her. Her teacher had taken her under her wings right on the first day. She gave Bholi a book said that within a month Bholi would be able to read it and then more would follow. She encouraged Bholi ~~in~~ in her soft and soothing voice.

She said that one day Bholi would be more learned than anyone in the village and then people would respect her. She slowly moulded Bholi from a stammering simpleton to a confident young girl. When Bholi refused to marry Bishamber and said that she would be self-reliant and serve her parents, her teacher knew that she had achieved her goal. She smiled in satisfaction like an artist when contemplating the completion of her masterpiece. She transformed Bholi into Sulekha.

③ Education is always a great asset in the life of a woman. How did Bholi, an educated girl, face the challenge posed by Bishamber's greed?

Ans. The inauguration of the village school proved to be the turning point in Bholi's life. It opened the door of education for Bholi and brought about a miraculous change in her. She was fear-stricken on the first day in school but her teacher proved to be the wind beneath her wings, she encouraged Bholi and guided her on the path of education. She promised Bholi that soon she would be the most learned person in the whole village and everyone will be forced to treat her with respect. When Bholi grew up, it was the treasure of literacy that gave her the courage to refuse marriage to Bishamber. She was now Sulekha; confident, self-reliant and courageous. Education thus gave her wings to fly and now the sky was the limit for her.