

4. In the Kingdom of Fools

Think about it

① What are the two strange things the guru and his disciple find in the Kingdom of fools?

Ans - The first strange thing observed by the guru and his disciple in the Kingdom of fools is that people slept throughout the day and even animals didn't venture out during daytime. All work was done during night only. The second strange thing observed by them was that everything cost one draddu, the local currency. Whether it was gold or a bunch of bananas, everything had the same value.

② Why does the disciple decide to stay in the Kingdom of Fools? Is it a good idea?

Ans - The disciple is a food freak. He is tempted by the cheap food available in the Kingdom of fools. So he decides to stay in the Kingdom. No, it is not a good idea. The behaviour of fools is always unpredictable. One can be in danger anytime.

③ Name all the people who are tried in the King's court, and give the reasons for their trial.

Ans - A thief dies when a merchant's wall collapses. Four people were tried in the King's Court. The first person was the owner of the house. He was tried for building a weak wall. The second person was the bricklayer. He was tried for not doing his work properly. The third one a dancing girl, was tried for distracting the mason at work. And the last one was the goldsmith who was accused of making the dancing girl walk up and down by delaying his work on her jewellery.

④ Who is the real culprit according to the king? Why does he escape punishment?

Ans - The rich merchant is finally blamed for the crime. The King rules that the sins come in inheritance. Therefore, the merchant is held guilty of his father's crime. However, the merchant escapes punishment because he is too thin to fit the stake prepared by the King.

⑤ What are the Guru's words of wisdom? When does the disciple remember them?

Ans - The guru knew that the behaviour of fools is unpredictable. They could be in danger anytime. He decided to leave the Kingdom at once. But the disciple did not realise the danger. He realised his mistake when the King ordered his execution without any reason.

⑥ How does the guru manage to save his disciple's life?

Ans - The King ordered the execution of the rich merchant who was held guilty of murdering a thief. A new stake was made but the merchant was too thin to be executed. So he decided to find out some fat man to be executed. His guru made a plan. They started fighting as to who should be executed first. He told the King that the stake was the stake of the God of justice. Whoever died first would be reborn as the King and whoever went next would be the future minister of this country. The King and the minister got executed willingly. Thus, the guru helped his disciple save his life.