

CBSE Class 09 English Language and Literature

NCERT Solutions

Moments Chapter 4

In the Kingdom of Fools

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

Ans: The two strange things that the guru and his disciple found in the kingdom of fools were that the whole kingdom was asleep during the day and carry out their work at night, and whether it was a measure of rice or a bunch of banana everything cost the same in the kingdom, one duddu (one rupee).

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

Ans: The disciple decided to stay in the Kingdom of Fools because he was delighted that everything cost a single duddu and everything was very cheap. All that he wanted was good and very cheap food. According to the Guru, staying there was not a good idea as they were all fools and so he felt this situation would not last long and was not sure about what they would do in the future.

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

Ans: The merchant whose house was burgled was the first accused because his house's wall collapsed and killed the thief. The next person was the bricklayer who built the wall as it was thought that his bad workmanship created a weak wall and killed the thief. Then the dancing girl was accused of distracting the bricklayer with her jingling anklets walking up and down the road where the bricklayer was laying the wall. Next accused was the goldsmith who he didn't complete the dancing girl's order on time and so she had to go to the goldsmith a dozen times. The goldsmith passed the buck on the merchant's father as his pressure on the goldsmith delayed the finishing of dancer's work. At last the wheel turned full circle and the blame came back to the original merchant but because he was too thin to be executed by the newly made stake and a fat man was required to fit the stake. The disciple was very fat,



hence he was caught.

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

Ans: According to the king's weird logic, the merchant inherited everything from his father so he should take the share of his father's sin as well. As the merchant was too thin to fit on the new execution stake so he escaped execution. The king concluded that a man fat enough to fit the stake will serve the purpose.

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

Ans: The *guru's* words of wisdom were that it was the city of fools. He advised the disciple to leave the city because he would not know what they would do next. The disciple remembers this when he was going to be executed.

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

Ans: The guru tries to confuse the king by expressing his desire to be killed first. Then to further confuse the king he tells the story of becoming the king in the next incarnation. Apparently, it may sound like a case of pure lie to save your dear one's life. But if we go deeper consciously or unconsciously the guru is trying to save everybody's life in the kingdom. Ultimately he is able to pull everybody out of the misery of living in the kingdom of fools.