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Class-X

English

First Flight

Chapter-8



Betty Renshaw

The Sermon at Benares

Part - 3

Neha Rajvanshi

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COMPREHENSION

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Question 1. When her son dies, Kisa Gotami goes from house to house. What does she ask for? Does she get it? Why not?

Answer : When her son dies, Kisa Gotami goes from house to house and asks the people for a medicine to cure her son. She does not get it because there is none to cure the dead. It is so because death is incurable.

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Question 2. Kisa Gotami again goes from house to house after she speaks with the Buddha. What does she ask for, the second time around? Does she get it? Why not?

Answer : For the second time around, She asks for a handful of mustard seed. The Buddha tells her that he will cure her dead son.

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For that she should bring a handful of mustard seed.

It must be brought from a house where death hasn't occurred. She does not get it because she can't find such a house where death has not occurred. Now she knows that death spares nobody who has been born.

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Question 3. **What does Kisa Gotami understand the second time that she failed to understand the first time? Was this what the Buddha wanted her to understand?**

Answer : She now understands that death is inevitable and that she was being selfish in her grief. She thinks over the fate of men.

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Their lives are like the light of the city which flickers and extinguishes again. Yes, it is this truth that Gautama the Buddha wanted her to understand.

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Question 4. Why do you think Kisa Gotami understood this only the second time? In what way did the Buddha change her understanding?

Answer : She understood the second time that death is common to all and that she was being selfish in her grief. She understood this only the second time because it was then that she found that there was not a single

house where some beloved had not died. First time round, she was only thinking about her grief and therefore asking for a medicine that would cure her son. But when all the families told her that there had occurred a death in their families, then only she realised the ultimate fate of human kind. Buddha made her understand cleverly that death is inevitable to all.

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Question 5. How do you usually understand the idea of 'selfishness'? Do you agree with Kisa Gotami that she was being 'selfish in her grief '?

Answer : By the idea of 'selfishness' I understand thinking of oneself only. It is also of thinking of those things that concern one only. I agree with Kisa Gotami that she is selfish in her grief.

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She now understands that death is common to all. One who is born has to die one day. One should not grieve over a thing that is common to all.

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Question 6. What was the effect of the sufferings of the world on the Buddha?

Answer : Gautama saw at the age of twenty-five a sick man, an aged man, a funeral procession and a monk begging. These scenes moved him so much that he became a monk. He went out into the world to seek enlightenment about sorrows. Finally, he got enlightenment.

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Question 7. What did Kisa Gotami say to Gautama Buddha? What reply did Gautama Buddha give to her?

Answer : Kisa Gotami reached Gautama Buddha. She told him everything about her son. He was now dead. She requested him to give medicine to cure her son. The buddha asked her to bring a handful of mustard seed. But he laid a condition. It

must be from a house where no one has lost a child, husband, parent or friend. It means where death has not occurred.

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Question 8. Why was Gautama known as the Buddha?

Answer : 'Buddha' means 'the Awakened or the Enlightened'. Gautama sat under the Tree of Wisdom and got enlightenment in 7 days. He started teaching his new understandings and became known as Gautama Buddha.

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Question 9. Who can obtain the peace of mind?

Answer : According to Gautama Buddha, any one can obtain peace of mind. He will get this if he draws out lamentation, complaint and grief. If he is composed with the knowledge of the nature of world, his mind is peaceful. He who has overcome sorrow will become free from sorrow. He will be blessed. His mind will be full of peace.

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are + not = aren't

The students are working hard, aren't they ?