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Chapter-8 | The Sermon at Benares

Worksheet-1

Multiple Choice Questions

- What did Kisa Gatuami notice while sitting at the wayside?**
 - Water
 - Mustard seeds
 - Money
 - Flickering lights
- What is the main idea expressed in the first paragraph?**
 - Why the Buddha became enlightened
 - What the Buddha's life was like
 - Now the Buddha became enlightened
 - Who the Buddha was
- Where did Buddha give his first sermon?**
 - Haridwar
 - Nepal
 - Banaras
 - Kanpur
- The mustard-seed must be taken from a house where no one has lost a child, husband, parent or friend. Why did the Buddha lay this condition?**
 - He wanted to show her that everyone must deal with death
 - He wanted to see how committed she was.
 - He needed speciic materials to achieve a miracle
 - He wanted to get rid of her as soon as possible
- In Buddha's childhood, what was his shielded front??**
 - Royalty
 - Sufferings of the world
 - enlightenment
 - power
- What is the real name of Gautam Buddha?**
 - Salyamuni Gautam
 - Swami Gautam
 - Siddhartha Gautam
 - Kisa Gautam
- What does the metaphor of the ox show?**
 - The helplessness of relatives
 - The wisdom in accepting one's fate
 - The inevitability of death
 - The terrible nature of the world
- Why is Kisa Gotami mentioned in the sermon?**
 - To provide an example of the Buddha's experiences
 - To garner sympathy from the readers
 - To identify important turning points in the Buddha's life
 - To illustrate a point

9. What does ripe fruit fear?

- (a) Danger of spoil
- (b) Danger of damage
- (c) Danger of falling
- (d) Danger of ruin

10. When did Gautama Buddha marry?

- (a) At the age of eighteen years
- (b) At the age of sixteen years
- (c) At the age of fifteen years
- (d) At the age of thirteen years

Fill in the blanks :

- 11. Kisa Gautami went house to house _____.
- 12. Kisa Gautami realised about death that _____.

True / False

- 13. The tone of the text is mainly righteous.
- 14. Buddha compares the life of mortals with earthen vessels.

Very Short Type Questions

- 15. Grief is often seen as a measure of love. Justify your response to Buddha's sermon.
- 16. What is the basic idea of Buddha's preaching?

Short Type Questions

- 17. The Buddha did not see much suffering during his early years. Provide support for the statement from the text.
- 18. Why did Gotami go to the Buddha? What lesson did he teach her?

Essay Type Questions

- 19. How did Buddha seek and achieve enlightenment?
- 20. How does Buddha bring about a different perspective in Kisa Gotami's understanding of life?

HOTS

- 21. **Assertion (A) :** As ripe fruits are in danger of falling early, so mortals when born are always in danger of death.

Reason (R) : With this statement of the Buddha find out the moral values that Kisa Gotami learnt after the death of her child.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true, but R is false.
- (d) A is false, but R is true.

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Answer & Solution



1. (d)
Kisa Gautami noticed the flickering lights of the city.
2. (c)
Now the Buddha became enlightened.
3. (c)
Buddha gave his first sermon in Banaras.
4. (a)
He wanted to show her that everyone must deal with death.
5. (b)
Gautama was shielded from the sufferings of the world in his childhood.
6. (c)
Siddhartha means he who achieves his aim and her mother dreamt about the elephant and after 10 months Buddha was born.
7. (c) The inevitability of death.
8. (d) To illustrate a point.
9. (c)
A ripe fruit fears the danger of falling.
10. (b)
Gautama Buddha married after his schooling at the age of sixteen years.
11. for mustard seeds
12. death is inevitable
13. True
14. True
15. Buddha taught that attachment to worldly things and people leads to suffering, including the suffering of grief when they are lost. While grief may indeed reflect a strong attachment or love, Buddha's teachings suggest that this attachment is ultimately harmful and should be transcended through the practice of detachment and compassion for all beings, rather than clinging to any individual person or thing. Therefore, while grief may be seen as a measure of love in some contexts, it is not necessarily a healthy or desirable state of mind according to Buddhist philosophy.
16. The basic idea of Buddha's preaching is that death is the ultimate truth of life. It is inevitable and common to all. Every living being has to die one day. Grief cannot console anyone. We must accept this universal truth.
17.
 - He was shielded from the sufferings of the world.
 - The text says he was not exposed to the sufferings of the world.
 - He had never seen a funeral procession/sick people/beggars/old people.

18. Kisa Gotami went to the Buddha and asked him to give her some medicine for her child. The Buddha asked her to bring a handful of mustard seeds from a house where there had been no death. She went from home to home but she could not find any house where nobody had ever died. The Buddha told her that the life of the mortals in this world is troubled and brief and combined with pain. The Buddha further told Kisa Gotami that every person who is born has to die one day. Thus, the Buddha was able to teach Gotami the lesson about the inevitability of the death.
19. Gautam Buddha was a prince. His parents had named him Siddhartha. He had been shielded from the sufferings of the world. At the age of twenty five he saw a sick man, an aged man and a dead man. He also saw an ascetic begging for alms. These sights moved him so much that he at once went out into the world to seek enlightenment concerning the sorrows he had witnessed. He wandered for seven years and finally sat down under a peepal tree, where he received enlightenment after seven days. He renamed the tree as the Bodhi Tree (Tree of Wisdom). He himself came to be known as the Buddha (The awakened or the Enlightened). The Buddha preached his first sermon at the city of Benares, the most holy dipping places on the River Ganges. The Sermon was preserved. It reflects the Buddha's wisdom about once inscrutable kind of suffering.
20. Kisa Gotami was afflicted with deep sorrow and grief after losing her only child. She sought help from each of her neighbours to seek medication for her dead child. She had completely lost all of her senses and had forgotten that there was no cure for death. She then visited Buddha in an effort to revive her deceased son. Buddha asked her to collect some mustard seeds from a home where no one had died. But she couldn't find one. Buddha made her realise her selfishness and that surrendering is the only way to get rid of the pain. He taught her to remain calm in suffering and see beyond personal loss. Ultimately, Kisa realised the universal nature of death and that those who can overcome sorrow are blessed and enlightened.
21. Kisa Gotami, in the story from the Buddhist tradition, learned profound moral values following the death of her child. The Buddha's statement highlighted the impermanence of life. Kisa Gotami realized the inevitability of death and the transient nature of existence. She learned empathy and compassion, understanding that suffering is universal. Her quest for a cure for her child's death taught her the futility of clinging to material possessions and the importance of accepting the natural cycle of life and death. Ultimately, she gained wisdom, humility, and a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of all beings, emphasizing the moral values of compassion, acceptance, and spiritual growth.