



**CLASS – 10**

**ENGLISH**

**First Flight**

**CH-8 : The Sermon at  
Benares**

**Part – 2**

**Comprehension**

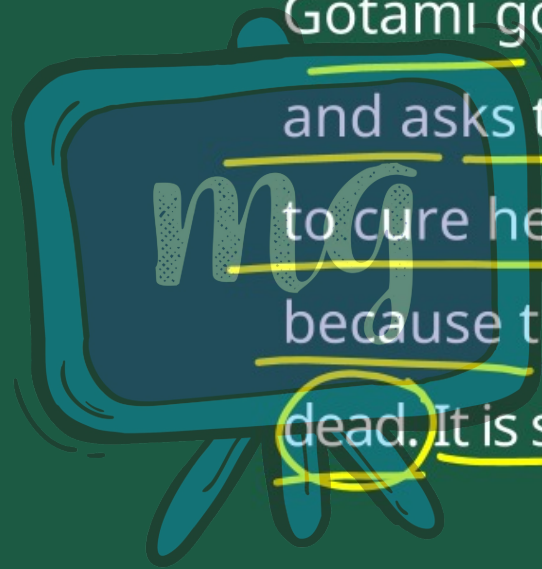
**ARPITA SHARMA**

## THINKING ABOUT THE TEXT

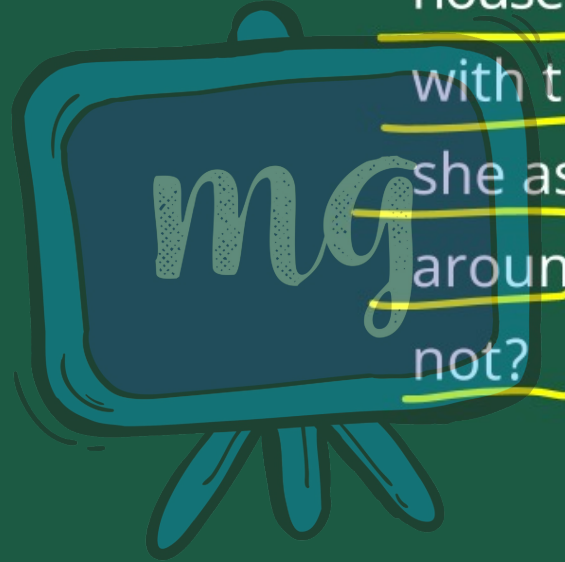
Q.1 When her son dies, Kisa Gotami goes from house to house. What does she ask for? Does she get it? Why not?

mg

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.



Q.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?



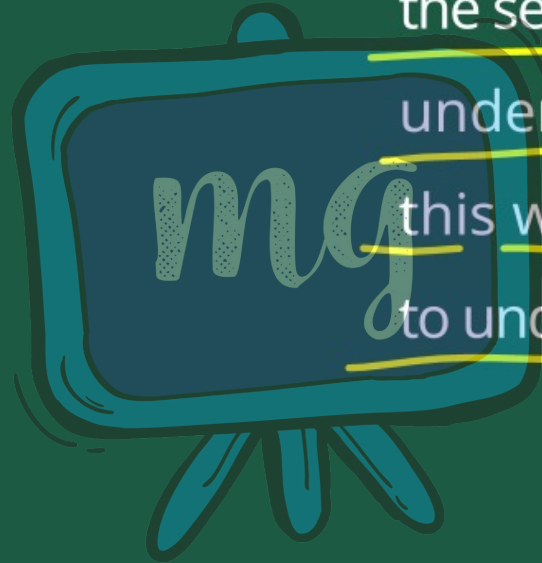
**Answer:** Gautama Buddha tells Kisa that he will cure her dead son.

For that she should bring a handful of mustard seeds.

It must be brought from a house where death hasn't occurred.

Kisa 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.

Q.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?

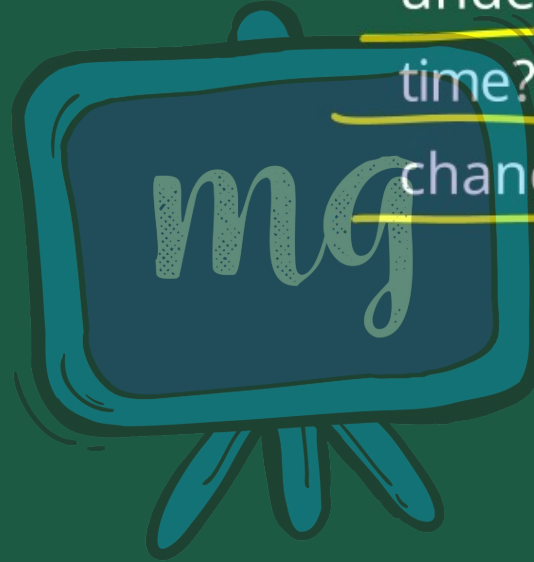


Answer: Kisa Gotami now understands that death is inevitable and that she is being selfish in her grief. She thinks over the fate of men.

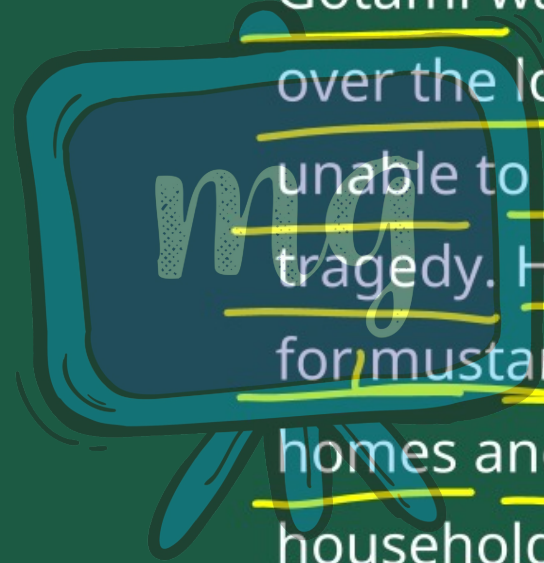
Their lives are like the light of the city which flickers and extinguishes again.

Yes, it is this truth that Gautama Buddha wanted her to understand that everyone who is born has to die one day.

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



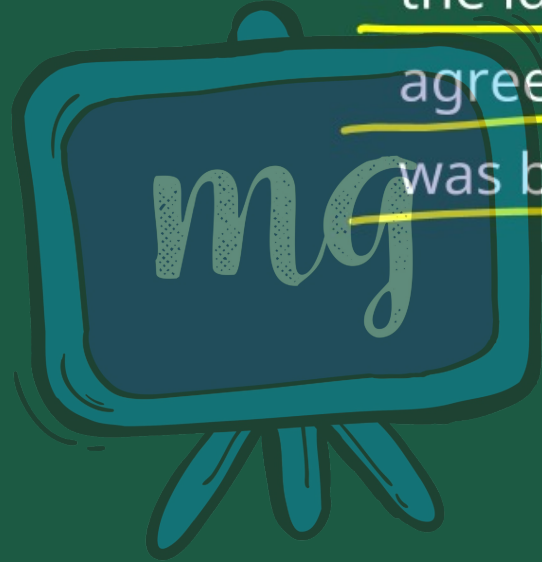
**Answer:** In the beginning, Kisa Gotami was consumed by her grief over the loss of her young son, unable to see beyond her personal tragedy. However, during her search for mustard seeds, she visited many homes and discovered that every household had experienced loss—whether it was a son, husband, parent, or friend.



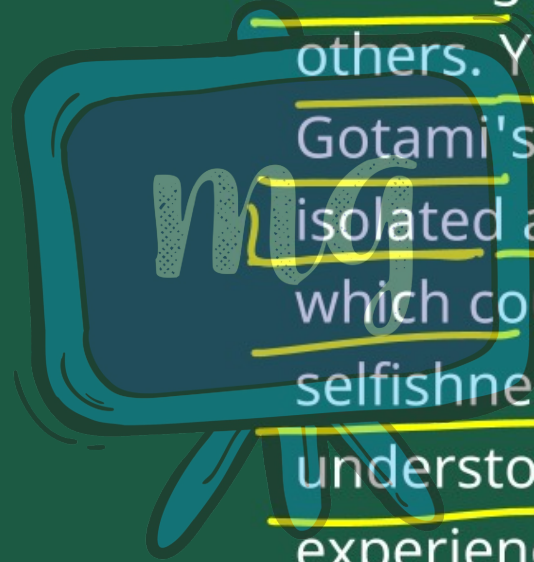
This realization struck her deeply,  
she understood that death is  
inevitable for all mortal beings.

Through this experience, Gautama  
Buddha helped her grasp that while  
loss is painful, it is a shared part of  
life, leading her to accept her son's  
death and recognize the common  
fate of humanity.

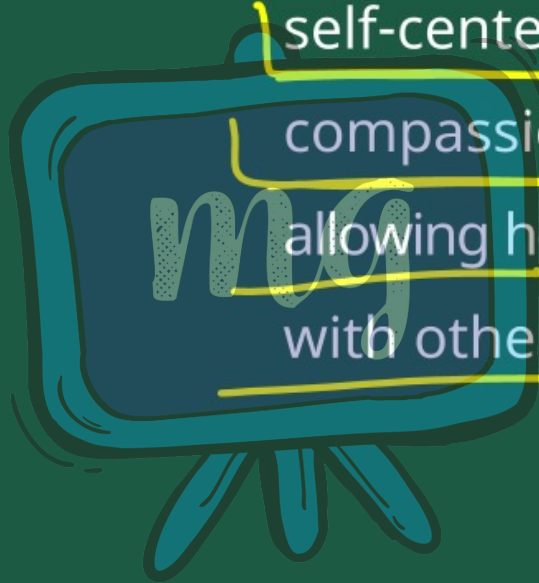
Q.5 How do you usually understand  
the idea of 'selfishness'? Do you  
agree with Kisa Gotami that she  
was being 'selfish in her grief'?



**Answer:** Selfishness often means focusing on one's own needs over others. Yes. I agree with Kisa Gotami's grief made her feel isolated and consumed by her loss, which could be seen as a form of selfishness. However, when she understood that everyone experiences death and loss, she recognized her grief was part of a shared human experience.



This shift helped her move from a self-centered perspective to a more compassionate understanding, allowing her to find peace and connect with others who also suffer.



## EXTRA QUESTIONS

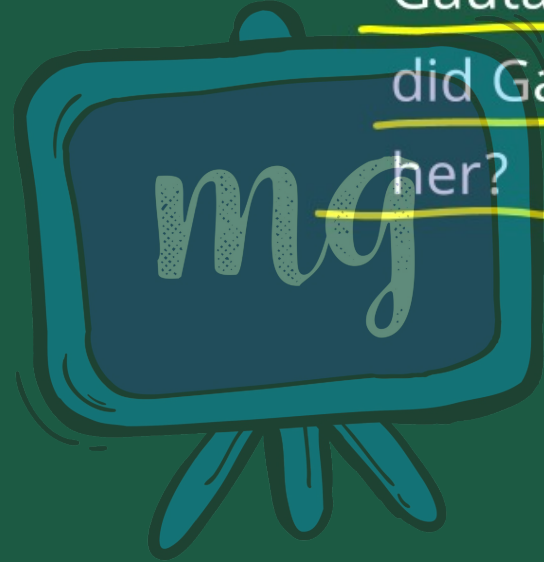
Q.1 What was the effect of the sufferings  
of the world on the Buddha?



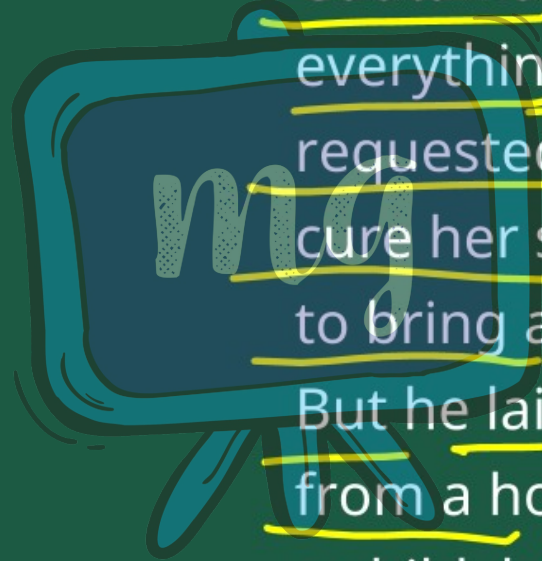
mg

**Answer:** The sufferings of the world  
deeply affected the Buddha, prompting  
him to seek a way to overcome  
suffering. Witnessing old age, sickness,  
and death made him realize that  
suffering is a fundamental part of life.  
This led him to renounce his royal life  
and pursue enlightenment. Ultimately,  
he attained understanding under the  
Peepal tree (Bodhi tree). *Tree of Wisdom.*

Q.2 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 dead son. She requested him to give medicine to cure her son. The buddha asked her to bring a handful of mustard seeds. But he laid a condition. It must be from a house where no one had lost a child, husband, parent or friend. It meant where death had not occurred.



Q.3 Why was Gautama known as  
the Buddha?



\*\*\* Answer: 'Buddha' means 'the Awakened or the Enlightened'.

\* Siddhartha Gautama wandered for seven years and finally sat down under a Peepal tree till he got enlightenment. After seven days of enlightenment, he renamed the tree as 'Bodhi Tree' and began to teach and to share his new understanding and came to be known as the Buddha.