

CHAPTER-10 | The Sermon at Benares

QUIZ-01

1. What event inspired Siddhartha Gautama to leave his royal life in search of enlightenment?
- A conversation with a monk
 - Witnessing human suffering during a hunt
 - A prophecy about his future
 - Reading the Hindu sacred scriptures (B)

Explanation : Siddhartha Gautama was deeply moved by the sight of a sick man, an aged man, a funeral procession, and a monk, which led him to seek enlightenment.

2. What is the Bodhi Tree significant for in Buddha's life?
- It was planted by Buddha's parents.
 - Buddha attained enlightenment under it.
 - It marked the location of his first sermon.
 - It was a gift from his disciples. (B)

Explanation : After meditating under the peepal tree for seven days, Buddha achieved enlightenment, renaming it the Bodhi Tree (Tree of Wisdom).

3. Why did Kisa Gotami initially approach her neighbors?
- To borrow food
 - To seek medicine for her dead son
 - To find a healer for herself
 - To collect mustard seeds (B)

Explanation : Overwhelmed by grief, Kisa Gotami carried her dead son to her neighbors, hoping for medicine to bring him back to life.

4. What condition did Buddha set for Kisa Gotami to obtain the mustard seed?
- It must come from a temple.
 - It must be blessed by a monk.
 - It must come from a house where no one has died.
 - It must be collected from the forest. (C)

Explanation : Buddha's condition aimed to teach Kisa Gotami that death is universal and unavoidable.

5. What realization did Kisa Gotami have after her search for mustard seeds?
- Only monks can overcome sorrow.
 - Death is a common fate for all.
 - She needed to perform a ritual.
 - Her grief was unique. (B)

Explanation : Through her futile search, Kisa Gotami understood the universality of death and began to surrender her selfish grief.

6. According to Buddha, what happens to mortals after old age?
- They achieve enlightenment.
 - They continue to live in happiness.
 - They inevitably face death.
 - They become immortal. (C)

Explanation : Buddha taught that life is transient, and all living beings are bound to experience aging and death.

7. How does Buddha suggest overcoming sorrow?
- By seeking revenge
 - By withdrawing from society
 - By understanding the inevitability of death
 - By following rituals and prayers (C)

Explanation : Buddha emphasized accepting death as a natural part of life and overcoming selfish grief to attain peace.

8. What metaphor does Buddha use to describe life in "The Sermon at Benares"?
- A river flowing endlessly
 - A flickering light that is extinguished
 - A blooming lotus
 - A mountain enduring storms (B)

Explanation : Buddha compares life to a flickering light, highlighting its fragility and brevity.

9. How does the text define the concept of 'selfishness' in grief?
- Excessive focus on one's own pain
 - Ignoring others' suffering
 - Seeking vengeance for a loss
 - Refusing to mourn a loved one (A)

Explanation : Kisa Gotami realized her selfishness lay in focusing solely on her grief, rather than understanding its universality.

10. What does Buddha mean by "drawing out the arrow of lamentation"?
- Seeking revenge on those who caused pain
 - Eradicating sorrow and complaints to attain peace
 - Ignoring the pain of loss
 - Meditating under the Bodhi Tree (B)

Explanation : Buddha taught that one must remove the metaphorical arrow of grief and lamentation to find peace of mind.