

The Tale of Melon City

इस अध्याय के सभी महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न – उत्तर सहित। पहले खुद हल करने की कोशिश करो, फिर उत्तर मिलाओ।

अभ्यास प्रश्न-उत्तर (हर टॉपिक से)

» Introduction to the 'Just and Placid' King

प्रश्न 1 (आसान). The King in the poem was described as 'just and _____. Fill in the blank.

उत्तर – placid

प्रश्न 2 (आसान). What structure did the King order to be built?

उत्तर – An arch

प्रश्न 3 (मध्यम). What does the word 'placid' mean in the context of the King's character?

उत्तर – It means calm and not easily excited or angered.

प्रश्न 4 (कठिन). Why did the King want the arch to be constructed on the major thoroughfare?

उत्तर – He wanted it to 'edify spectators there', meaning to educate or uplift those who saw it, perhaps to enhance the city's glory or beauty.

» The Flawed Arch and the King's Initial Reaction

प्रश्न 5 (आसान). Why did the King get angry with the arch?

उत्तर – The King got angry because the arch was built too low, and his crown fell off when he passed under it.

प्रश्न 6 (आसान). What was the King's immediate reaction to the 'disgrace'?

उत्तर – His immediate reaction was to order the chief of builders to be hanged.

प्रश्न 7 (मध्यम). The King was described as 'just and placid'. How did his reaction to the arch contradict this description?

उत्तर – Even though he was 'just and placid', his immediate and severe reaction of ordering an execution for a seemingly minor flaw (his crown falling) showed an impulsive and unjust side, contradicting his usual nature.

» Shifting Blame: Builders, Masons, and the Architect

प्रश्न 8 (आसान). चीफ बिल्डर ने गलती किसकी बताई?

उत्तर – workmen की।

प्रश्न 9 (आसान). वर्कर्स ने गलती किसकी बताई?

उत्तर – bricks की।

प्रश्न 10 (मध्यम). मेसन्स ने किसकी गलती बताई, और इससे राजा ने किसे बुलाया?

उत्तर – मेसन्स ने कहा, 'It was the architect...', जिससे राजा ने architect को बुलाया।

प्रश्न 11 (कठिन). जब आर्किटेक्ट ने अपनी गलती नहीं मानी, तो उसने क्या तर्क दिया जिससे राजा सोच में पड़ गया?

उत्तर – आर्किटेक्ट ने कहा, 'You made certain amendments to the plans when I showed them to you.' यानि, राजा ने खुद ही प्लान में बदलाव करवाए थे।

» Seeking Counsel: The Wisest Man's Verdict

प्रश्न 12 (आसान). What physical limitations did the wisest man have?

उत्तर – The wisest man could not walk and could not see.

प्रश्न 13 (आसान). What was the wisest man's first instruction about the culprit?

उत्तर – He said, 'The culprit must be punished.'

प्रश्न 14 (मध्यम). Why did the King seek the wisest man's counsel?

उत्तर – The King was confused by the shifting blame among the different people and couldn't find a single culprit, so he sought 'some counsel' from the wisest man.

प्रश्न 15 (कठिन). How does the 'wisest man's' verdict highlight the theme of absurdity in the poem?

उत्तर – The wisest man's verdict is absurd because it literally blames an inanimate object, the arch, for knocking off the crown and condemns it to death. This highlights the theme of absurdity by showing how easily 'justice' can be misdirected and how irrational decisions can be made under the guise of wisdom, especially when the authorities are unwilling to take responsibility or think logically.

» The Arch's Fate and the Demand for a Hanging

प्रश्न 16 (आसान). What did the councillor object to?

उत्तर – The councillor objected to hanging the arch.

प्रश्न 17 (आसान). Why did the King tremble?

उत्तर – The King trembled because he perceived the restless mood of the crowd.

प्रश्न 18 (मध्यम). What was the King's final decision regarding the hanging, given the crowd's mood?

उत्तर – The King decided that 'someone' must be hanged, and that immediately, to appease the restless crowd.

प्रश्न 19 (कठिन). Explain the irony in the councillor's objection, considering the 'wisest man's' earlier verdict.

उत्तर – The irony lies in the fact that the 'wisest man' gave an absurd verdict to hang an inanimate arch, but it was a 'councillor' who pointed out the deeper absurdity and disrespect (shamefulness) in hanging something that touched the King's head, thus highlighting the superficiality of the earlier 'wise' judgment.

» The King's Execution: Ironic Justice

प्रश्न 20 (आसान). Who was found to be the only person to fit the noose?

उत्तर – The King himself.

प्रश्न 21 (आसान). What phrase from the poem states the King was executed by his own rule?

उत्तर – 'Hanged by Royal Decree'.

प्रश्न 22 (मध्यम). What does 'ironic justice' mean in the context of the King's execution?

उत्तर – It means the justice system, set up by the King, unexpectedly turned against him, leading to his own death by the very rules he was enforcing for others.

प्रश्न 23 (कठिन). Discuss how the King's execution highlights the absurdity and lack of true justice in Melon City.

उत्तर – The execution highlights absurdity because the criteria for hanging became purely physical (fitting a noose) rather than based on guilt or responsibility. It shows a lack of true justice because the King, who was responsible for the faulty arch and chaotic decisions, became a victim of his own arbitrary

system, revealing a justice system without reason or genuine accountability, driven only by public demand for a spectacle.

» Choosing the New Ruler: The Idiot and the Melon

प्रश्न 24 (आसान). Who was the first person to pass the City Gate?

उत्तर – An idiot.

प्रश्न 25 (आसान). What did the idiot choose as the new king?

उत्तर – A melon.

प्रश्न 26 (मध्यम). Why did the ministers devise a new custom for choosing a ruler?

उत्तर – To prevent unrest and maintain peace in the state after the king's death.

प्रश्न 27 (कठिन). Describe the ceremonial process by which the melon became king.

उत्तर – The ministers declared the melon as the new king, 'Crowning a melon', and then 'led (carried) the Melon to the throne and reverently set it down' with 'due ceremony', accepting the idiot's bizarre choice.

» The Melon King and the Principles of Laissez-Faire

प्रश्न 28 (आसान). What does 'laissez-faire' mean in simple terms?

उत्तर – It means 'leave alone' or 'let do', implying minimal government interference.

प्रश्न 29 (आसान). According to the poem, were the people happy with the Melon King?

उत्तर – Yes, 'The people were happy and free' with the Melon King.

प्रश्न 30 (मध्यम). Why did the citizens of Melon City accept a melon as their king?

उत्तर – They accepted the Melon King because he ensured their 'peace and liberty' and did not interfere much in their lives, aligning with 'laissez-faire' principles.

प्रश्न 31 (कठिन). How does the Melon King's rule exemplify the principles of 'laissez-faire'?

उत्तर – The Melon King's rule exemplifies 'laissez-faire' because the people valued 'peace and liberty' above the ruler's nature. The king's lack of active governance meant less interference in their lives, leading to a state where people were 'happy and free', which is the core idea of 'laissez-faire'.

हल किए हुए उदाहरण (step-by-step)

उदाहरण 1. कविता के अनुसार, राजा का स्वभाव कैसा था और उसने क्या बनाने का आदेश दिया?

› पहले हम कविता की शुरुआती लाइनें देखेंगे: 'In the city of which I sing, there was a just and placid King.' यहाँ हमें राजा का स्वभाव पता चलता है।

› फिर अगली लाइनें देखेंगे: 'The King proclaimed an arch should be constructed...' यहाँ हमें पता चलता है कि राजा ने क्या बनाने का आदेश दिया।

› तो हम कह सकते हैं कि राजा 'just and placid' था, और उसने एक 'arch' बनाने का आदेश दिया।

उत्तर – राजा 'just' (न्यायप्रिय) और 'placid' (शांत स्वभाव) का था। उसने एक 'arch' (मेहराब) बनाने का आदेश दिया।

उदाहरण 2. Explain the immediate cause of the King's anger and his reaction when he passed under the arch.

- › The King ordered a grand arch to be built.
- › The arch was constructed, but it was 'built too low'.
- › As the King rode under it, his 'crown fell off' because the arch was too low.
- › This incident caused a 'frown' to appear on his normally 'placid face', indicating anger and embarrassment.
- › He immediately declared it 'a disgrace' and without further thought, ordered 'the chief of builders will be hanged'.

उत्तर – The King's anger was immediately caused by his crown falling off as he passed under the arch, which was built too low. He perceived this as a personal disgrace and swiftly ordered the chief of builders to be hanged.

उदाहरण 3. राजा ने पहले चीफ बिल्डर को फाँसी देने का आदेश दिया। जब चीफ बिल्डर ने कहा कि गलती 'workmen' की है, तो राजा ने क्या फैसला लिया?

- › पहला आदेश था 'the chief of builders will be hanged'.
- › चीफ बिल्डर ने कहा, 'O King, it was the workmen's fault'.
- › राजा ने सुना और अपना 'just' निर्णय बदलते हुए कहा, 'Have all the workmen hanged instead.'
- › यानी राजा ने अपना निर्णय बदल दिया और workmen को फाँसी देने का आदेश दिया।

उत्तर – राजा ने सभी workmen को फाँसी देने का आदेश दिया।

उदाहरण 4. Explain why the wisest man's verdict was considered 'absurd'.

- › The wise man declared, 'The arch it was that banged the crown off, and it must be hanged.'
- › An arch is an inanimate object, a part of a building, and cannot commit an action intentionally or be held responsible for an 'accident'.
- › Punishing an object for an event caused by human error or structural defect is illogical and lacks reason.
- › Therefore, his judgment was 'absurd' because it applied a human concept of blame and punishment to a non-living thing.

उत्तर – The wisest man's verdict was absurd because he sentenced an inanimate object, the arch, to be hanged for an incident, treating it as if it had human agency and could be held morally accountable.

उदाहरण 5. राजा ने क्यों कहा कि 'Someone' must be hanged?

- › सबसे पहले, 'the wisest man' ने मेहराब को फाँसी देने का आदेश दिया था।
- › एक मंत्री ने इस पर आपत्ति जताई और कहा कि 'How can we hang so shamefully What touched your head?' क्योंकि मेहराब ने राजा के सरि को छुआ था।
- › फिर, 'the crowd, Restless, was muttering aloud.' मतलब भीड़ बेचैन हो गई और फुसफुसाने लगी, गुस्सा दिखाने लगी।
- › राजा ने भीड़ का 'mood' यानी उनका गुस्सा देखा और 'trembled' यानी डर गए।
- › इसी डर के मारे, भीड़ को शांत करने के लिए, राजा ने कहा कि 'The nation Wants a hanging. Hanged must be Someone, and that immediately.' मतलब कोई तो फाँसी पर चढ़ेगा ही, तुरंत।

उत्तर – राजा ने भीड़ के गुस्से और बेचैनी को देखकर, उन्हें शांत करने के लिए कहा कि 'someone must be hanged' क्योंकि राष्ट्र को फाँसी चाहिए थी और उन्हें तुरंत किसी को फाँसी पर चढ़ाना था।

उदाहरण 6. Explain the irony in the King's execution in 'The Tale of Melon City'.

- › The King ordered a hanging to satisfy the restless crowd, declaring 'Hanged must be Someone, and that immediately.'
- › A search began for a person tall enough to fit the noose.
- › Ironically, 'only one man was so tall He fitted. One man. That was all.'
- › This one man was the King himself.
- › Therefore, the King was 'hanged by Royal Decree' - by his own law, for a situation he created.

उत्तर – The irony lies in the King's own decree for a hanging leading directly to his own execution, as he was the only person who fit the noose, fulfilling a law he himself initiated to appease the public.

उदाहरण 7. Explain how the new custom of choosing a ruler leads to a surprising outcome.

- › The ministers declared a new custom: 'The next to pass the City Gate will choose the ruler'.
- › An 'idiot' happened to be the first person to pass through the City Gate.
- › When asked who should be the king, the idiot, who 'liked melons', simply replied, 'A melon'.
- › Following the custom strictly, the ministers 'crowned a melon' and 'led the Melon to the throne', accepting it as their new king.

उत्तर – The custom of letting the next person at the city gate choose the ruler, combined with the random appearance of an idiot who chose 'a melon' due to his fondness for them, resulted in a melon being crowned king.

उदाहरण 8. कविता के अनुसार, 'The Tale of Melon City' के लोगों के लिए सबसे महत्वपूर्ण क्या था और उन्होंने खरबूजे के राजा को क्यों स्वीकार किया?

- › कविता में कहा गया है कि 'The principles of laissez faire seem to be well-established there.'
- › इसका अर्थ है कि लोगों को अपनी 'peace and liberty' सबसे प्यारी थी, न कि राजा कौन है या वो कैसा है।
- › जब उन्हें खरबूजे के रूप में एक राजा मिला, तो उन्होंने पाया कि 'The people were happy and free'.
- › चूंकि उन्हें शांति और आज़ादी मिल रही थी, इसलिए वे नए राजा से 'contented' थे, भले ही वह एक खरबूजा ही क्यों न हो।

उत्तर – कविता के अनुसार, शहर के लोगों के लिए सबसे महत्वपूर्ण 'peace and liberty' (शांति और आज़ादी) थी। उन्होंने खरबूजे के राजा को इसलिए स्वीकार किया क्योंकि उसने उन्हें ये दोनों चीजें दीं और उनके मामलों में ज़्यादा हस्तक्षेप नहीं किया, जो 'laissez-faire' के सिद्धांत को दर्शाता है।

बोर्ड परीक्षा के लिए खास

- इस कविता के मुख्य पात्रों और उनके गुणों को ध्यान से समझें, क्योंकि उन पर आधारित प्रश्न अक्सर आते हैं। जैसे, राजा का स्वभाव कैसा था?
- यह कहानी का एक महत्वपूर्ण टर्निंग पॉइंट है, जिसमें राजा के चरित्र का एक नया पहलू सामने आता है। इस घटना और राजा की प्रतिक्रिया को अच्छे से समझना, खासकर उसके 'just and placid' स्वभाव के विपरीत, परीक्षा में मदद करेगा।
- इस हिस्से से अक्सर यह प्रश्न आता है कि राजा का 'just and placid' होना, उसके बार-बार बदलते हुए फैसलों से कैसे व्यंग्यात्मक (ironic) लगता है। इन किरदारों के बीच संवाद को ध्यान से समझें।
- इस हिस्से से अक्सर 'irony' और 'absurdity' वाले प्रश्न आते हैं। ध्यान रखना कि 'wisest man' का फैसला कैसे मज़ाकिया और तर्कहीन था, इसी पर जोर देना।
- इस हिस्से से अक्सर राजा के 'placid' स्वभाव और भीड़ के दबाव में लिए गए उसके फैसले पर आधारित प्रश्न आते हैं। 'The King perceived their mood and trembled' - यह पंक्ति याद रखना।

- इस भाग से अक्सर 'humour' और 'irony' पर आधारित प्रश्न आते हैं। ध्यान रखें कि कहानी में क्या बात हास्यास्पद है और क्यों।
- यह 'laissez-faire' वाला कॉन्सेप्ट बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है! अक्सर बोर्ड परीक्षा में पूछा जाता है कि 'The Tale of Melon City' कसि तरह से 'laissez-faire' के सिद्धांतों को दर्शाता है। इसे ध्यान से समझना, बचें।

एक नज़र में रिवीज़न

- › King was 'just and placid'; ordered an arch for the city.
- › Low arch -> King's crown fell -> King angry, ordered hanging.
- › Blame shifted from builders to workmen, masons, then architect.
- › Wisest man's verdict: blame the arch, hang it.
- › Councillor objects to arch's hanging; King fears restless crowd, demands 'someone' be hanged.
- › Idiot chooses melon as king by new custom to prevent unrest.
- › Laissez-faire: 'leave alone', minimal rule, people valued peace/liberty over king.