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## Get Going

A. Let us find the answers from the poem.

1. What do the merchants sell?

A- The merchant sell all kinds of expensive clothing and artefacts: turbans and tunics of vibrant colours, mirrors with panels of amber and daggers with handles of jade.

2. What are the vendors weighing? Why are they weighing them?

A- The vendors are weighing saffron, lentil and rice. They are weighing them because these items are sold by ivory dice.

3. Who are pedlers? What are they weighing them?



A- Pedlars are people who go from place to place selling things. In the poem, they were selling chessmen and ivory dice.

4. What fruits are the fruitmen waving?

A- The fruit men are selling citrons (lemons), pomegranates and plums.

5. Who are the flower-girls weaving the garlands for?

A- The flower-girls are weaving the garlands for the bridegroom, and also for the dead.

B. Let us read between the lines.

1. Why does the speaker say that the wares of the merchant are richly displayed?

A- The phrases 'richly displayed' describes the wares themselves rather

than the way they are displayed. The wares look grand and exotic and thus, the poet says that they are richly displayed.

2. Why are the goldsmiths making bells for the feet of blue pigeons?

A- In the olden days, pigeons were used as messengers. The bells tied to their feet scared other animals away and also alerted the receiver of the message. The usage blue pigeons signify that these pigeons belongs to the royalty. The goldsmiths are making gold bells for these royal pigeons.

3. In the bazaars of Hyderabad, there are sellers of all kinds: merchants, fruit sellers and flower-girls. What does this tell you about the bazaars?

A- The bazaars of Hyderabad as



describes in the poem are very different from the present-day markets. In these bazaars, people from all sections of the society gathered to sell their wares, be it the rich merchants and goldsmiths or the fruit-sellers and flower girls.