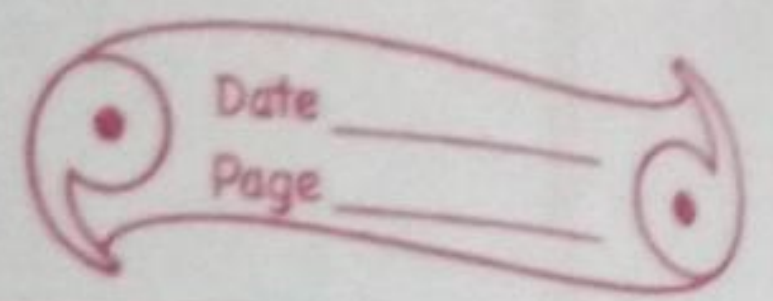


H.W
11/05/21

The Sound of Music Part 'II'

The Shehnai of Bismillah Khan



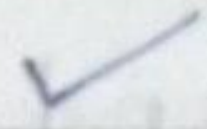
I. Tick the right answer.

1. The (shehnai, pungi) was a 'wooded noisemaker'.
2. (Bismillah Khan, A barber, Ali Bux) transformed the pungi into a shehnai.
3. Bismillah Khan's paternal ancestors were (barbers, professional musicians).
4. Bismillah Khan learnt to play the shehnai from (Ali Bux, Paigambar Bux, Ustad Faiyaz Khan).
5. Bismillah Khan's first trip abroad was to (Afghanistan, U.S.A, Canada).

II. Find the words in the text which show Ustad Bismillah Khan's feelings about the items listed below. Then mark a tick (✓) in correct column.

Bismillah Khan's feeling about	Positive	Negative	Neutral
1. teaching children music	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
2. the film world		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3. migrating to the U.S.A		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
4. Playing at temple			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. getting the Bharat Ratna	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
6. the banks of the Ganga	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

7. leaving Banarasi and
Dumraon



III. Answer these questions in 30-40 words.

1. Why did Aurangzeb ban the playing of the pungi?
Aurangzeb banned the playing of the pungi because it had a shrill and unpleasant sound. Pungi became the generic name for wooded noise-makers.

2. How is a shehnai different from a pungi?
Shehnai is an improved version of pungi as it has a better tonal quality than pungi. It is a natural hollow steam pipe that is longer and broader than a pungi. It has seven holes on the body of the pipe.

3. Where was the shehnai played traditionally?
How did Bismillah Khan change this?
The shehnai was played traditionally in the temple at the royal courts and on the occasion of weddings. Bismillah Khan changed the tradition by bringing this instrument onto the classical stage.

4. When and how did Bismillah Khan get his big break?

Bismillah Khan got his big break in 1938 when he played shehnai on radio on the occasion of the opening of the All India Radio in Lucknow. Soon he became an often heard player on radio.

5. Where did Bismillah Khan play the shehnai on 15 August 1947? Why was the event historic?

On 15 August 1947, Bismillah Khan played shehnai at the Red Fort. The event was historical because India got independence from the British rule on that day. He was the first Indian to greet the nation with his musical instrument. He poured his heart out in the presence of a large number of people including Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru.

6. Why did Bismillah Khan refuse to start a shehnai school in the U.S.A?

Bismillah Khan refused to start a shehnai school in the U.S.A because he didn't want to stay away from India. He was really fond of Benaras, the River Ganga and Dumraon.

That is why whenever he was in a foreign country, he kept yearning to see Hindustan.

7. Find at least two instances in the text which tell you that Bismillah Khan loves India and Benaras.

The instances that show Bismillah Khan's love for India and Benaras are:

- 1) Bismillah Khan refused one of his students' offer to start a shehnai school in U.S.A because of his immense love for Benaras, River Ganga and Dumraon.
- 2) The second instance is when Khan saab was asked by Shekhar Gupta about moving to Pakistan during the partition, he said that he would never leave Benaras.
- 3) The third instance is, he says that he misses the holy Ganga and India when he goes abroad. While in Mumbai, he thinks of only Benaras and the holy river. And when he is in Benaras, he remembers the unique mattha of Dumraon.

Think about Language

1. Complete the following sentences. Beginning with a to-verb, try to answer the questions in brackets.

1. The school sports team hopes to win the match [what does it hope to do?]

2. We all want to be happy [what do we all want to do?]

3. They advised the hearing-impaired child's mother to consult a doctor. [what did they advise her to do?]

4. The authorities permitted us to start the construction work. [What did the authorities permit us to do?]

5. A musician decided to open a music school for children. [What did the musician decide to do?]

2. From the text on Bismillah Khan, find the words and phrases that match the definitions and write them down.

1. the home of royal people the royal residence.

2. the state of being alone solitude.

3. a part which is absolutely necessary an indispensable component.

4. to do something not done before improvise
5. without much effort effortlessly.
6. quickly and in large quantities thick and fast.

3. Tick the right answer.

1. When something is revived, it (remains dead / lives again).
2. When a government bans something, it wants it (stopped / started).
3. When something is considered suspicious, (welcome it / avoid it).
4. When we take to something, we find it (boring / interesting).
5. When you appreciate something, you (find it good and useful / find it of no use).
6. When you replicate something, you do it (for the first time / for the second time).
7. When we come to terms with something, it is (still upsetting / no longer upsetting).