

(4) Who is the real culprit according to the King? Why does he escape punishment?

Ans → The real culprit according to the King was the merchant himself. Although merchant's father was the one to be blamed, the person to be held punishable was the merchant as the merchant's father was already dead & someone had to be punishable punished for the crime. He escapes punishment because he was too thin to be executed on the stage.

(5) What are the Guru's words of wisdom? When does the disciple remember them?

Ans → The Guru's words of wisdom were "This is a city of fools. You don't know what they will do next". The disciple remembers them when he is ordered to be executed without committing

any crime. He was to be executed on the stake just because he was fat enough to be executed on the stake.

Q How does the guru manage to save his disciple's life?

Ans: - The guru tells the king that he wants to get executed first. Surprised at the wish of getting executed, the king expresses his desire to know the reason. The guru tells that that stake is the stake of the god of justice. It's new, it has never had a criminal on it. So, whoever dies on it first will be reborn as the king of the country. And whoever goes next will be the future ministers of this country. The foolish king wants to avail this opportunity. He tells his minister that they should not let their kingdom go into hands of others in the next life. They decide to go on the stake themselves thinking that they will be reborn as the king and the ministers of the kingdom. They release

the guru and the disciple. That's how
the guru manages to save his disciple's
life.