

15/5/21 Shehnai of Bismillah Khan

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Thinking About the Text

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17) Why did Aurangzeb ban the playing of the pungi?

→ Aurangzeb banned the playing of the pungi because it had a shrill and unpleasant sound.

27) How is shehnai different from a pungi?

→ A shehnai is a pipe with a natural hollow that is longer and broader than a pungi. It has seven holes on the body of the pipe.

37) 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. The credit must go to Bismillah Khan to take this instrument onto the classical stage.

When and how did Bismillah Khan get his big break?

Bismillah Khan got his big break with the opening of the All India Radio in Lucknow in 1938.

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

→ Bismillah Khan played the shehnai on 15 August 1947 at the Red Fort. He was the first Indian to greet the nation with his musical instrument. This event was historic because we got independence on that day. He poured his heart out in the presence of a large number of people including P.T.

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

7) He refused to start a Shehnai School in the USA because he never wanted to leave India. He loved India so much and he did not want to settle anywhere except India. 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.

7) Bismillah Khan loves India and Benaras the sound of music from the bottom of his heart. 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.

1) Tick the right answer :

1) The (shehnai, pungi) was a 'reeded

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2.7 Bismillah Khan, A barber, Ali Bux) transformed the pungi into a shehnai ✓

3.7 Bismillah Khan's paternal ancestors were barbers professional musicians)

4.7 Bismillah Khan's learnt to play the Shehnai from (Ali Bux, Paigambar Bux; Ustad - Faiyaz Khan)

5.7 Bismillah Khan's first trip abroad was to (Afghanistan, U.S.A, Canada)

II) Find the words in the text which shows Ustad Bismillah Khan's feeling about the items listed below. Then mark a tick (✓) in the correct column. Discuss your answer in ~~class~~ class.

Bismillah Khan's feeling about	Positive	Negative	Neutral
1.7 teaching children music	✓		
2.7 the film world		✓	
3.7 migrating to the U.S.A		✓	
4.7 Playing at temples			✓
5.7 getting the Bharat Ratna	✓		
6.7 the banks of the Ganga	✓		
7.7 leaving Benaras and Dumraon.		✓	

I N D E X

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