

Q1) Who is the real culprit according to the king? Why does he escape punishment?

According to the king, the real culprit was the merchant's dead father. As he was dead, he could not be punished & in place of him, his son who had inherited all his property would be punished.

The merchant escapes the punishment as the minister feels that he is too thin to be killed by the stake.

Q2) What are the Guru's words of wisdom? When does the disciple remember them?

The Guru had told his disciple that the place was a kingdom of fools & they were unsafe for them. He had asked his disciple ~~is reminded~~ to leave the place at once. The disciple is reminded ~~of~~ of his Guru's words of wisdom when he lands into trouble. When the king's men take him for execution, he prays to his Guru & asks him to save his life.

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

The guru is a wise & intelligent man. He traps the foolish king in his talks. He says that as he is the Guru, he is senior to his disciple & so he should be killed first. The king gets confused to see the Guru's eagerness to die. He asks him the reason for it. On being promise that he would be killed first, the Guru says that as the stake is a new one, it has not killed any criminal. He adds that the person who would be killed by the stake first would be reborn as the king of the kingdom. The second person who would be killed by the stake would be reborn as the minister of the kingdom. The king considers the Guru to be genuine & so, tells his ministers that they should not lose their kingdom on the next birth. In this way, the king decides to save his kingdom & get himself & his ministers killed by the stake in place of the guru & his disciple. Hence, the guru saves his disciple's life.