

Think About It

1. What are the two strange things the guru and his disciple find in the Kingdom of Fools?

Ans → The two strange things that the guru and his disciple find in the Kingdom of Fools are:
 People used to work during nights and sleep during days.

Cost of everything in the market was the same one dadda, whether it was a measure of rice or a bunch of bananas.

2. Why does the disciple decide to stay in the Kingdom of Fools? Is it a good idea?

Ans → The disciple decided to stay in the Kingdom of Fools because he was very happy with the fact that everything was quite cheap there. He had peculiarity of diet. He was tempted by the cheap food. So, he thought of enjoying an easy life by staying in that kingdom.

No, it was not a good idea to stay there for a long time. All the people of the kingdom were fools and they could be dangerous for them in future, as suggested the Guru.

3. Name all the people who were tried in the king's court, and give the reasons for their trial.

Ans → Following people were tried in the king's court:

- ① The merchant whose house was burgled: He was pronounced guilty because his wall was weak that fell upon the burglar and killed him.
- ② The bricklayer who built the wall: He had built a wall which was weak and which collapsed killing the burglar.
- ③ The dancing girl: She was tried for distracting the bricklayer with her jingling anklets by walking up and down the road where bricklayer was laying the wall.
- ④ The goldsmith: He was tried as he didn't complete the dancing girl's order on time and so she had to walk up and down to his house a dozen times.

The king then came to the conclusion that the goldsmith should be punished and summoned him. But when he was summoned to the court he in turn shifted the whole blame on to the merchant's father who persecuted him.

for completing his order first due to which he (the goldsmith) could not complete the girl's order in time.

4. Who is the real culprit according to the king? Why does he escape punishment?

Ans → According to the king, the real culprit was the merchant. Actually, the merchant's father was the real murderer but he was dead. On consulting this with his ministers, the king came to the conclusion that the punishment would be carried out on the merchant.

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

Ans → The Guru's words of wisdom were that it was the city of fools and their unpredictable behaviour could create danger anytime. He advised the disciple to leave the city because he would not know what they would do next. The disciple remembers these words when he was going to be executed in place of the merchant.

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

Ans → The guru tries to confuse the king by expressing his desire to be killed first. He told the king that it was not an ordinary stake. It was the stake of the god of justice. It was new that never had a criminal on it. So, whoever would die on the stake first would become the king in next life and the second to die would become his minister. The king wanted to avail himself of the opportunity as he didn't want to lose the kingdom to someone else in the next round of life. So he ordered to postpone the execution to the next day and talked in secret with his minister. That night, the king and his minister went secretly to the prison. They released the guru and the disciple and disguised themselves as the two. Finally, both of them were taken to the stake and promptly executed. In this way the guru managed to save his disciple's life.