

The Shehnai of Bismillah Khan

(Part - 2)

Date

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Thinking about the text

Q. Tick the right answer.

1. The (shehnai, pungi) was a 'needed 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).

Q. Bismillah Khan's feelings about

- i) teaching children music - Positive
- ii) the film world - Negative
- iii) migrating to the U.S.A. - Negative
- iv) playing at temples - Positive
- v) getting the Bharat Ratna - Positive
- vi) the banks of the Ganga - Positive
- vii) leaving Benaras and Dumraon - Negative

Q. Answer these questions in 30-40 words.

1. Why did Aurangzeb ban the playing of the pungi?

Ans → Aurangzeb banned the playing of musical instrument pungi because it had a shrill and

unpleasant sound.

2. How is a shehnai different from a pungi?

Ans → Shehnai is an improved version of pungi as it has a better tonal quality than pungi. It is a natural hollow stem pipe that is longer and broader than a pungi. It has 7 holes on the body of the pipe.

3. Where was the shehnai played traditionally?

How did Bismillah Khan change this?

Ans → The shehnai was traditionally played in royal courts, temples and weddings. Ustade Bismillah Khan changed the tradition by bringing this instrument onto the classical stage.

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

Ans → 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 historical?

Ans → 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.

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

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

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

Ans → The 2 instances that show Bismillah Khan's love for India and Benaras are:

1) Bismillah Khan refused one of his student's 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 Shrihar Gyaeta about moving to

Pakistan during this partition, he said that he would never leave Benares.

⑩. Thinking About Language.

1. The school sports team hopes to win the match
2. We all want to be happy
3. They advised the hearing-impaired child's mother to consult a doctor
4. The authorities permitted us to start the construction work
5. A musician decided to open a music school for children.

⑪.

1. the home of royal people - the royal residence
2. the state of being alone - solitude
3. a part which is absolutely necessary - indispensable
4. to do something not done before - invent
5. without much effort - effortlessly
6. quickly and in large quantities - fast and thick.

III.

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 auspicious, (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~~ 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).