

JUNE

THE BRAHMARAKSHAS

I ERC

1) No one is willing to cultivate my land. I feel so vexed with them! All my land remains untilled and the irrigation channels are drying up. This makes me poorer day by day. What should I do?

a) Who said the above lines and to whom?

Ans. The Landlord said this to the Sanyasi.

b) What problems did the speaker convey?

Ans. The Landlord was worried that no one was willing to till his land. His lands were turning barren and the irrigation channels were drying up.

c) How would you describe the speaker's character from the above lines?

Ans. On the basis of the passage, the Landlord appears wealthy but tight-fisted and stingy by nature. He is vexed and frustrated that no one is willing to cultivate his land which has made him poorer. He is self-centered and concerned about only his own self.

2) I will assign him a task that will keep him occupied for an extended time.

a) Who said the above words and to whom?

Ans. The Landlord's wife said these words to her husband.

b) What task does the speaker give to the Brahmarakshas?

Ans. She pulled out a strand of her hair and asked the Brahmarakshas to straighten it without damaging it.

c) By the task offered to the Brahmarakshas, would you call the speaker witty?

Ans. Yes, the speaker is clever and witty because she understood how to keep the Brahmarakshas occupied and make him go away.

3. Alas, the hair sizzled and emitted a nasty odour. He was horrified by the unexpected outcome.

a) What did the Brahmarakshas do to straighten the hair?

Ans. He heated it above a fire to get the hair straightened.

b) How did the Brahmarakshas react to the unexpected result?

Ans. He was horrified at his blunder.

c) What did the Brahmarakshas realize at the end?

Ans. He realised that the Landlord and his wife had tricked him.

II SHORT ANSWERS

1) Why did the Landlord's farms remain untilled and barren?

Ans. The Landlord's farms remain untilled and barren because no one was willing to cultivate his land as he was miserly and did not pay people properly.

2. What did the Sanyasi tell the Landlord about the incantation? How was it meant to be practised?

Ans. The Sanyasi told the Landlord that he would give him a mantra which he had to diligently recite day and night for 3 consecutive months. If done so, a Brahmaraksha would appear before him and would become his loyal servant and would dutifully follow all his orders.

3. What was the first task the Landlord gave to the Brahmaraksha to do?

Ans. The first task the Landlord gave to the Brahmaraksha was to dig a well as deep as two tall palm trees. Also, the Landlord asked him to fix the broken parts of the embankment. The Brahmaraksha completed the task in a single day.

4) What task did the Landlord's wife ask the Brahmaraksha to do? Did he succeed in the task? Why or why not?

Ans. The Landlord's wife asked the Brahmaraksha to straighten a strand of her hair without causing any harm to it. He failed to do so because he attempted to straighten the strand of hair by keeping it over fire. The outcome of using fire to straighten the hair was that it sizzled and emitted a nasty odour and got burnt.

5) How did the Landlord and his wife trick and dismiss the Brahmarakshas?

Ans. The Landlord and his wife planned to trick and dismiss the Brahmarakshas by assigning him a task that they believed he would fail to accomplish, leading to his departure.

III ANSWER IN DETAIL:

1) How did the Landlord's action and attitude contribute to the outcome of the story?

Ans. The character of the Landlord in the story exhibits traits of greed and stinginess. His miserliness and unwillingness to provide fair compensation for farming his land resulted in turning the land barren and unused. This sets the stage for the encounter with the Brahmarakshas and the subsequent events.

The Landlord's initial desperation to find a solution to his problems reflects his self-centered mindset and the desire for personal gains.

When the sanyasi offers him the mantra to summon the Brahmarakshas, the Landlord eagerly accepts it, a wish driven by his greed for acquiring a hundred servants. However, his greed and lack of consideration for others are revealed when he worries about finding enough work for the Brahmarakshas and even contemplates the possibility of the creature taking his life. The story highlights the negative consequences of greed and demonstrates that such actions can backfire and result in unexpected outcomes.

Lute Player

1 ERC

1. For three long years, the king remained trapped in the dreadful prison without any means of contacting his beloved queen.

a) Why was the prison dreadful?

Ans. The prison was dreadful because each night, the prisoners were chained up and during the day, they were yoked together to toil like oxen ploughing the land until dusk.

b) What was the king's ~~main~~ ^{main} struggle during his imprisonment?

Ans. The king's main struggle during his imprisonment was to endure the harsh conditions and the loss of freedom. He missed his people and queen and there was no means of contacting his wife.

c) What does the line show about the king's relationship to his wife?

Ans. The line shows that the king loved her a lot as he misses the companionship and friendship with his wife.

2) If my singing reaches your ear
within your royal hall
Grant

My heart's desire above all.

a) Where did the lute player sing this song?

Ans. The lute player sang this song to gain audience with the heathen king and urge him to free her husband.

c) What was the speaker's 'heart's desire'?

Ans. The speaker's 'heart's desire' was that her husband should be freed.

3. Though she now welcomes me lovingly, when I suffered in prison and reached out for her aid, she remained indifferent, offering no help whatsoever.

a) Who is the speaker? About whom is he talking?

Ans. The lines are spoken by the king. He is talking about his queen.

b) Is the speaker right in his assessment?

Ans. No the speaker is not right in his assessment.

c) What does the line tell you about the speaker's character?

Ans. The line tells us that the king was quick to judge his wife and doubted his wife's loyalty.

II SHORT ANSWERS

1) Why did the king embark on the journey to a distant land ruled by a heathen king?

Ans. The king's spirit began to yearn for adventures. He grew restless and desired to explore the world; to test his strength in the battle against formidable foes and to achieve honour and glory beyond measure.

2. How long was the king trapped in the heathen king's prison? What was his condition in the prison?

Ans. The king was trapped in the heathen king's prison for three years. He felt miserable to be a slave and to be alone without his wife, people and kingdom.

3. How did the queen disguise herself when she set out to rescue her ~~king~~ husband?

Ans. The queen disguised herself as a young lute player, ~~and~~ when she set out to rescue her husband.

4. What did the queen do in the courtyard to enchant everyone?

Ans. In the courtyard, the queen gracefully plucked the strings of her lute and enchanted all who heard her.

5) How did the heathen king react when he heard the lute player's soul-stirring song?

Ans. The heathen king was mesmerized by the song of the lute player. He forgot to eat and drink. He even forgot to inflict torment ~~and~~ upon others. He summoned the lute player immediately upon hearing his soul-stirring song.

6) How did the king and queen's kingdom flourish after their reunion?

Ans. After the king and queen's reunion, their kingdom

flourished, guided by a reign built on compassion, trust and the enduring power of love.

III ANSWER IN DETAIL

i) What do you think motivated the queen to take such a dangerous journey to save her husband?

Ans. The queen's motivation to save her husband came from a deep love and commitment to their relationship. It was the love and bond they shared that compelled her to undertake such a dangerous and daring journey. Her actions demonstrate her unwavering dedication and willingness to go to great lengths to ensure her husband's safety and freedom.