

## Ln-6 The Great Escape

### I ERC

1) you have walked into a lion's den. Aurangzeb's hospitality may be a disguise for treachery.

(a) who spoke these lines and to whom?

(Ans) The lines were spoken by the soldier to Shivaji.

(b) why have they come to Aurangzeb?

(Ans) Aurangzeb had invited them for his 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration.

(c) what treachery did eventually happen?

(Ans) Aurangzeb captured Shivaji and his men.

2) My friend, in the midst of these dark days, knowledge becomes our most potent weapon. Tell me, what news swirls beyond these prison walls?

(a) who is the 'friend' referred to here?

(Ans) The postmaster is referred to as a 'friend' in above lines.

(b) what is the news that the friend gives?

(Ans) The postmaster told Shivaji that there was discontent and dissent among the people and they were awaiting Shivaji's return.

(c) whose idea was it to listen to the news floating around?

(Ans) It was Sambhaji's idea to listen to the news floating around.

3) Very well, I shall grant your request, but let it be known that your fate still lies in my hands. Do not mistake my generosity for weakness.

(a) who spoke these lines and to whom?

(Ans) Aurangzeb spoke these words to Shivaji.

(b) what is the request referred to here?

(Ans) The request that Shivaji's soldier should be released is being referred to in the above lines.

(c) why will the listener mistake the generosity for weakness?

(Ans) Shivaji can mistake the generosity of Aurangzeb as his weakness and can think that if Aurangzeb releases his soldiers, then Aurangzeb is afraid of him and has thus released his soldiers.



## II SHORT ANSWERS:

1) why did shivaji call the invitation unexpected?

(Ans) Shivaji called the invitation unexpected because Aurangzeb was his enemy. So, Shivaji did not expect that he would be invited.

(2) why was the General concerned? was he right in his concern? Justify your answer.

(Ans) The General was concerned because he felt that Aurangzeb was a cunning adversary, known for his treachery and might harm Shivaji.

Yes, he was right in his concern because ultimately Aurangzeb would imprison Shivaji.

(3) Aurangzeb tricks Shivaji to capture him but there are instances where we see that he is kind. List at least two instances to prove this.

(Ans) Aurangzeb tricked Shivaji to capture him but there are instances where he could be seen to be kind:

(a) when he agreed and released Shivaji's soldiers.

(b) when he allowed Shivaji to distribute sweets to the poor.

(4) what plan did shivaji make to escape from the prison in Agra?

(Ans) Shivaji asked for the baskets of sweets to be distributed to the poor and on the final day he and his son hid in the sweet baskets and escaped from prison.

(5) what did Sambhaji plan to do after the liberation from the prison?

(Ans) Sambhaji wanted to light the fire of freedom in the hearts of his people and liberate them.

Answer in Detail :-

1) Shivaji is a good judge of character. How is this shown in his analysis of the guards' behaviour?

(Ans) Shivaji understood that after a long time the guards would become complacent in checking the sweet baskets because it would become the same monotonous work and when that would happen, they would not check the baskets that he and his son would be

in and they would be able to escape.  
This was exactly what happened.