

The Sermon at Benares

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate alternative from those given below:

(1)

The Buddha said, The life of mortals in this world is troubled and brief and combined with pain. For there is not any flieans by which those that have been born can avoid dying; after reaching old age there is death, of such a nature are living beings. As ripe fruits are early in danger of falling, so mortals when born are always in danger of death. As all earthen vessels made by the potter end in being broken, so is the life of mortals. Both young and adult, both those who are fools and those who are wise, all fall into the power of death, all are subject to death.

Question 1.

To Buddha, the life of mortals is:

- (a) long
- (b) parallel
- (c) short
- (d) busy

▼ Answer

(c) short

Question 2.

By no means death can be avoided by those:

- (a) that have been born
- (b) that have never born
- (c) that have courage
- (d) that have ambition

▼ Answer

(a) that have been born

Question 3.

The mortals are always In danger of:

- (a) birth
- (b) death
- (c) sickness
- (d) rudeness

▼ Answer

(b) death

Question 4.

The word 'mortals' means:

- (a) bound to shock
- (b) bound to cry
- (c) bound to laugh
- (d) bound to die

▼ [Answer](#)

(d) bound to die

Question 5.

The unavoidable death of human beings is compared to:

- (a) Ripe gains
- (b) Ripe flowers
- (c) Ripe fruits
- (d) Ripe seeds

▼ [Answer](#)

(c) Ripe fruits

(2)

He wandered for seven years and finally sat down under a fig tree, where he vowed to stay until enlightenment came. Enlightened after seven days, he renamed the tree the Bo Tree (Tree of Wisdom) and began to teach and to share his new understandings. At that point he became known as the Buddha (The Awakened or The Enlightened). The Buddha preached his first sermon at the Benares, most holy of the dipping places on the River Ganges.

Question 1.

'The tree' here refers to:

- (a) a pipai tree
- (b) a mango tree
- (c) a neem tree
- (d) a fig tree

▼ [Answer](#)

(d) a fig tree

Question 2.

'He' here refers to:

- (a) Kisa
- (b) Anand
- (c) Gautama Buddha
- (d) Betty

▼ Answer

(c) Gautama Buddha

Question 3.

Buddha gave the name the tree as:

- (a) Bo tree
- (b) Go tree
- (c) No tree
- (d) To tree

▼ Answer

(a) Bo tree

Question 4.

He gave his first sermon in:

- (a) the city of Jaipur
- (b) the city of Benares
- (c) the city of Ujjain
- (d) the city of Patliputra

▼ Answer

(b) the city of Benares

Question 5.

The phrase 'dipping places' means:

- (a) places for raining
- (b) places for plucking
- (c) places for bathing
- (d) places for writing

▼ Answer

(c) places for bathing

(3)

Mark while relatives are looking on and lamenting deeply, one by one mortals are carried off, like an ox that is led to the slaughter. So the world is afflicted with death and decay. therefore the wise do not grieve, knowing the terms of the world. Not from weeping nor from grieving will anyone obtain peace of mind, on the contrary. his pain will be the greater and his body will suffer. He will make himself sick and pale, yet the dead are not saved by his lamentation. He who seeks peace should draw out the arrow of lamentation, complaint, and grief.

Question 1.

Buddha gave this sermon to:

- (a) Ananda
- (b) Kisa Gotami
- (c) author
- (d) a crowd

▼ [Answer](#)

(b) Kisa Gotami

Question 2.

Mortals are carried off from:

- (a) the world
- (b) the family
- (c) the bed
- (d) the door

▼ [Answer](#)

(a) the world

Question 3.

He who remains composed will obtain:

- (a) piece of gold
- (b) piece of bread
- (c) peace of wealth
- (d) peace of mind

▼ [Answer](#)

(d) peace of mind

Question 4.

The word 'slaughter' means:

- (a) to laugh
- (b) to kiss
- (c) to kill
- (d) to note

▼ [Answer](#)

(c) to kill

Question 5.

The wise do not grieve on:

- (a) loss of property
- (b) death and decay

- (c) loss of manhood
- (d) life and death

▼ [Answer](#)

- (b) death and decay
-

(4)

But when she asked. "Did a son or daughter, a father or mother, die in your family ?" they answered her. "Alas! the living are few, but the dead are many. Do not remind u of our deepest grief." And there was no house but some beloved one had died in it. Kisa Gotami became weary and hopeless, and sat down at the wayside watching the lights of the city, as they flickered up and were extinguished again. At last the darkness of the night reigned everywhere. And she considered the fate of men, that their lives flicker up and are extinguished again.

Question 1.

She' here refers to:

- (a) lady neighbour
- (b) Kisa Gotami
- (c) a disciple
- (d) Anarid's wife

▼ [Answer](#)

- (b) Kisa Gotami
-

Question 2.

She asked the villagers if they had:

- (a) lost a loved one in their family
- (b) some rice for her
- (c) worshipped Buddha
- (d) lost their pet

▼ [Answer](#)

- (a) lost a loved one in their family
-

Question 3.

They replied the living were few but:

- (a) the dead were many
- (b) the starved were many
- (c) the non hiving were many
- (d) none of the above

▼ [Answer](#)

- (a) the dead were many

Question 4.

Kisa Gotami felt tired and:

- (a) bored
- (b) depressed
- (c) delighted
- (d) devoid of hope

▼ [Answer](#)

(d) devoid of hope

Question 5.

The word 'reigned' here means:

- (a) reered
- (b) roared
- (c) ruled
- (d) refused

▼ [Answer](#)

(c) ruled

(5)

At twelve, he was sent away for schooling in the Hindu sacred scriptures and four years later he returned home to marry a princess. They had a son and lived for ten years as befitted royalty. At about the age of twenty-five, the Prince, heretofore shielded from the sufferings of the world, while out hunting chanced upon a sick man, then an aged man, then a funeral procession, and finally a monk begging for alms. These sights so moved him that he at once became a beggar and went out into the world to seek enlightenment concerning the sorrows he had witnessed.

Question 1.

'He' here refers to:

- (a) Kisa
- (b) Siddhartha
- (c) Devdatta
- (d) Betty

▼ [Answer](#)

(b) Siddhartha

Question 2.

He was sent for schooling at the age of:

- (a) three
- (b) thirteen

- (c) ten
- (d) twelve

▼ [Answer](#)

- (d) twelve
-

Question 3.

Siddhartha lived as a prince for:

- (a) ten years
- (b) three years
- (c) thirteen years
- (d) twelve years

▼ [Answer](#)

- (a) ten years
-

Question 4.

The 'sights' those moved the prince were:

- (a) a funeral procession
- (b) a sick man
- (c) an aged man
- (d) all the above

▼ [Answer](#)

- (d) all the above
-

Question 5.

The word 'enlightenment' means:

- (a) a state of being innocent
- (b) a state of high spiritual knowledge
- (c) a state of deserted brain
- (d) none of the above

▼ [Answer](#)

- (b) a state of high spiritual knowledge