**15th June, 2020 JESUS AND MARY SCHOOL AND COLLEGE MOUDLE-4**

**CLASS-8**

**ENGLISH LITERATURE**

**NOUREDDIN AND THE FAIR PERSIAN**

**INTRODUCTION-**

**The story "Noureddin and the Fair Persian" is an Arabian folktale (folk tale is a very old traditional story that has been passed down from one generation to another in a spoken form). In this chapter you will come across many characters but the protagonist (hero) of the story will not appear here because it is a very long story and only the first part of the story is given here.**

**TEXT-**

*Balsora was the capital of a rich kingdom. Caliph Haroun-al-Rashid, the king of Balsora, had two ministers, named Khan and Sayed.*

*Khan was kind, generous, and liberal, and took pleasure in obliging, as for as in him lay, those who had business with him. Throughout the entire kingdom there was no one who did not esteem and praise him as he deserved.*

*Sayed was quite different character, and repelled everyone with whom he came in contact; he was always gloomy, and, in spite of his great riches, so miserly that he denied himself even the necessities of life. What made him particularly detested was the great hatred he had for Khan, of whom he never ceased to speak evil to the king.*

**EXPLANATION-**

The story starts from, Balsora which is the capital of a rich kingdom and ruled by Caliph Haroun- al- Rashid. Balsora was a vast kingdom so Caliph had appointed two ministers Khan and Sayed. But there was a great difference between Khan and Sayed. Khan was kind, helpful, and liberal towards the people who came to him. The entire kingdom loved and praised him because he deserved it. Whereas Sayed disliked and avoided everyone who came to his contact. He had a lot of money but he was not happy because he was a miser and did not want to spend money on the basic necessities of life. He hated Khan because of his praise and respect and always spoke against Khan to the king.

**WORD MEANINGS**

Generous - helpful

Liberal - accepting different opinions

Gloomy - sad

Obliging - helping

Esteem - respect

Repelled - disliked and avoided

Miserly - not wanting to spend money

**Answer the following questions.**

**Q1**. Contrast the nature of Khan and Sayed?

**Q2**. Why was Sayed jealous to Khan?

**Q3**. Why did people love and respect Khan?

**TEXT-**

*One day, while the king amused himself talking with his two ministers and other members of the council, the conversation turned on the qualities of a woman fit to be the queen. While some declared that it sufficed for a queen to be beautiful, others, and Khan was among the number, maintained that beauty alone was not enough, but that it must be accompanied by wit, wisdom, modesty, and, if possible, knowledge.*

*The king not only declared himself to be of this opinion, but charged Khan to announce that whoever should fulfill all these conditions would become his queen.*

*Sayed, who had been of the opposite side, and was jealous of the honour done to the Khan, said, "Sir, it will be very difficult to find a woman accomplished as your Majesty desire, and, if she is so to be found, her father will demand nothing less than 10,000 gold pieces from a rich king like you."*

*"Sayed," answered the king, "you seemed to find that a very great sum. For you it may be so, but not for me."*

*And forthwith he ordered his grand treasurer, who are present, to send 10,000gold pieces to Khan.*

**EXPLANATION-**

One day, when the king amused himself with his two ministers and other council members, their conversation turned towards the qualities of a woman fit to be the queen. Sayed and some other ministers said that it is enough for a woman to be beautiful to become a queen but Khan and other ministers said that a queen should be smart, well- behaved, full of wisdom and if possible well educated too. In short, she should be a whole person, and not just valued for her body. The king agreed with Khan and charged Khan to announce that whoever will fulfill these conditions will be his queen. Sayed, who was on the opposite side did not like the honour given to the Khan by the king and said that it is very difficult to find a woman who can fulfill all these qualities and if Khan find her, her father will demand 10,000 gold pieces from the rich king like him. The king laughed and said that it is a huge amount of money for Sayed but not for him, the king, and ordered his grand treasurer, who was present there, to send 10,000 gold pieces to Khan to buy such a woman for him.

**WORD MEANINGS-**

Accomplished - qualified

Modesty - humility

**Answer the following questions.**

**Q1**. According to Khan what should be the qualities of a woman to be a queen?

**Q2**. Why was Sayed jealous and what did he tell the king?

**Q3**. Why was Khan given the money?

**TEXT-**

*Khan sent invitations to noblemen far and wide, who sent servants to look for such a one as he described. They promised to do their utmost, and no day passed that they did not bring information about eligible ladies for his inspection but none was found without some defect.*

*At length, early one morning, while Khan was on his way to the king's palace, a man, throwing himself in his way, announced eagerly that a Persian merchant, arrived late the previous evening, had a daughter, whose wit and wisdom were equal to her incomparable beauty.*

*Khan, overjoyed at this news, gave orders that the merchant be informed that he wished to meet his daughter. The merchant appeared at the appointed hour, Khan found the lady beautiful beyond his expectations, and immediately gave her the name of "The Fair Persian."*

**EXPLANATION-**

After getting the king's order and gold pieces Khan sent invitations to the noblemen and sent servants far and wide to search a woman as he described and they promised Khan that they do their best. Every day, they informed about the eligible ladies for his inspection but there was no one without any defect. Days passed and suddenly one morning when Khan was going to the palace a man came to his way and told him eagerly that last night a Persian merchant came to the city and his daughter is as beautiful and smart as he desired. Khan became so happy when he heard this and gave order to inform the merchant that Khan wanted to meet him and his daughter. The merchant appeared at the appointed hour and Khan saw that the lady was more beautiful than his imagination and he immediately gave her the name "The Fair Persian".

**WORD MEANINGS-**

Eligible - suitable

Incomparable - matchless

Expectations - desires

**Answer the following questions.**

Q1. What did Khan do to find the lady?

Q2. What happened one morning?

Q3. Why did Khan name the lady "Fair Persian"?

**TEXT-**

*Being a man of great wisdom and learning, he perceived in the short conversation he had with her that he would seek in vain another woman to surpass her in any of the qualities required by the king, and therefore asked the merchant whether he was willing to marry off his daughter to the king.*

*"Sir," was the answer,"for less than 10,000 gold pieces I will not marry her for he has spent a huge sum on masters for her instruction, not to speak of clothing and nourishment. She is in every way fit to be the wife of a king: she plays every musical instrument, she sings, she dances, she makes verses, in fact there is no accomplishment in which she does not excel."*

*Khan, not wishing to bargain, immediately had the sum counted out, and given to the merchant, who before withdrawing said:*

**EXPLANATION-**

But beauty was not the only thing that required. Khan was a wise and learned man so after a short conversation he knew that it is a waste of time to search for any other lady, she has all the qualities, that the king desired, and he asked the merchant if he was ready to marry his daughter to the king. The merchant said that he will marry his daughter to the king if he paid him 10,000 gold pieces because he spent a huge amount of money on his daughter and he is not talking only about food and clothing. He spent a lot of money to make her fit to be queen of a king .She can play every musical instruments, she can dance, she can sing, she can make verses and for all things he spent a lot of money. In fact there is nothing in which she is not perfect. Khan also knew that she is the perfect lady to be a queen, so he didn't waste time in bargaining and immediately counted the money and gave it to the merchant.

**WORD MEANINGS-**

Surpass - exceed

Required - to need something

Nourishment - nurture

**Answer the following questions.**

Q1. How did Khan find out the lady is fit to be a queen?

Q2. Why did the merchant demand 10,000 gold pieces?

Q3. Describe the qualities of thefair Persian?

**TEXT-**

***"****Sir as she destined for the king, I would have you observe that she is extremely tired with the long journey, and before presenting her to his Majesty you would do well to keep her a* ***fortnight*** *in your own house, and to see that a little care is bestowed upon her. The sun had tanned her complexion, but when she has seen two or three to the bath, and is fittingly dressed, you will see how much her beauty will be increased."*

*Khan thanked the merchant for his advice, and determined to follow it. He gave the beautiful Persian an apartment near to that of his wife, whom he charged to treat her as befitting a lady destined for the king, and to order for her the most* ***magnificent*** *garments.*

*Before bidding* ***adieu*** *to the fair Persian, he said to her: "No happiness can be greater than what I have procured for you; judge yourself, you now will be the queen."*

**EXPLANATION-**

Before leaving the merchant told Khan that his daughter is made for a king and you can see that she is very tired of the long journey and it's my suggestion to keep her in your home for a ***fortnight*** before presenting the king. After a little care you will see the change in her. The sun make her complexion dark but after two or three baths and with beautiful dress up you will see how much her beauty will increase. Khan thanked the merchant for his advice and determined to follow it. He gave her an apartment near to his wife's apartment and gave her the charge to make her perfect for the king and ordered the grand garments for her. Before saying goodbye to the fair Persian, Khan requested her that he had made a lot of effort to find her and also told her that he had decided the best for her and suggested to decide what is better for her because now she is going to be a queen and the decision must be hers.

**WORD MEANINGS-**

Fortnight - half month or two weeks

Destined - fated

Bestowed - given something

Tanned - dark complexion

Magnificent - grand

Procured - got

**Answer the following questions.**

Q1. What did the merchant suggested Khan to do before presenting the fair Persian to the king?

Q2. How was the merchant's daughter treated by Khan?

Q3. Where did Khan stay the fair Persian? Who was charged to look after her?

**WORKSHEET NO. 4**

**Fill in the blanks.**

At length, early one morning, while Khan was on his way to the ......... palace, a man, throwing himself in his way, announced eagerly that a ............ merchant, arrived late the previous ..............., had a daughter whose ........... were equal to her incomparable beauty.

**Name the following (from the story).**

1. refused - ....................
2. hated - .....................
3. uselessly - .....................
4. giving freedom to others - .................
5. sad and quiet - ....................

**Note- Please do all this work in your notebook which will be checked when school reopens. Please consider this importance.**

**SOLUTION TO WORKSHEET NO. 3**

**(UPLOADED ON 1ST JUNE, 2020)**

**THE LISTENERS**

**Answer the following questions.**

***Is there anybody ...................................................Traveller's head.***

**Q1**.**Who are the listeners in "'The Listeners"? Why were they called so?**

1. The phantoms of the house are the listeners. They are called listeners because they can only listen.

**Q2**. **How is the traveller's second question different from the first one?**

1. The traveller knocked on the door when he asked for the first time whereas he smote upon the door the second time. This means he was more careful and cautious the second time.

**Q3**. **What are the only living things there?**

**A**. The traveller and his horse are the only living things there?

**2**. ***And he smote ...........................................world of men.***

**Q1**. **Why are the eyes of the traveller described as 'grey'?**

1. The word grey is often used to describe unclarity or confusion. In the poem, the poet describe the eyes of the traveller as grey as we know nothing about the traveller except that he was at the door of the house to keep a promise.

**Q2**. **Identify the two words used to give the poem an eerie atmosphere?**

1. The two words that used to give the poem an eerie atmosphere are 'grey' and 'phantoms'.

**Q3**. **Why was he 'perplexed and still'?**

1. He was 'perplexed and still' because he was excepting an answer from the inmates of the house but despite repeated calls, there was no response. He was there to keep a promise and therefore was certain to receive an answer.

**3**. ***Stood thronging ...................................................... dark turf.***

**Q1**. **Where were the listeners when the Traveller was waiting for a response?**

1. The listeners were crowded around the staircase when the traveller was waiting for a response.

**Q2**. **What does the poet mean by ' the voice from the world of men'?**

1. 'The voice from the world of men' means by the sound made by the traveller because only the traveller was the human being there.

**Q3**. **Why was the knocking on the door not answered?**

1. The knocking on the door was not answered because there were no one in the house except the phantoms.

**4**. ***Neath the starred .......................................................... still house.***

**Q1**. **What message does the traveller leave before going?**

1. Before going, the traveller leaves the message that he kept his promise and visited the place. He asked to respond but no one answered.

**Q2**. **Who do you think are the inmates of the house?**

1. I think the inmates of the house are phantoms who once used to dwell in it.

**Q3**. **Why had the Traveller gone there?**

1. The Traveller had gone there because he had promised someone to visit the place.

***5.From the one ...................................................hoofs were gone.***

**Q1**. **How does the poet create a strange and eerie atmosphere?**

1. The poet creates a strange and eerie atmosphere by the use of likely words, phrases and situations.

**Q2**. **What does the poem teach us?**

1. The poem teaches us that a change is must, nothing will be with us forever and does time is valuable. It is also teaches us to keep any promise which we make.

**Q3**. **How does the poet describe the sounds of the traveller's departure?**

1. At the time of the traveller's departure from the house, there were sounds of the horse's hoofs striking on the stones and his foot getting into stirrup.

**Choose the correct answer.**

1. a moonlight evening at a dwelling in a forest
2. phantom listeners
3. all of the above
4. the phantoms

**Explain the following.**

1. The starry night – the starry night adds up to the atmosphere's eeriness.
2. and he felt in his heart their strangeness – the traveller knew that there were ghosts who listened to him.
3. to that voice from the world of men – the sound made by the traveller
4. plunging hoofs were gone – indicates that the traveller had gone

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