
SUMMARY OF THE LESSON**I**

Vijay Singh was a famous wrestler. He was tall like a giant. He had big shoulders and muscular arms. He was a born wrestler.

But Vijay Singh had one weakness. It often pushed him into trouble. He was given to self praise and tall talks. He once said that he was not afraid of ghosts. He wished to face a ghost and teach him a lesson.

A man guided him to the Haunted Desert. That place was ten miles on the road to Jaisalmer. The ghosts had often looted and killed travellers.

Vijay Singh accepted the challenge. He got ready to set out west. An old woman came forward and put a packet into his hands. It contained an egg and a piece of salt. The old woman was known to be crazy.

As Vijay Singh entered the Desert, he heard the voice of a ghost. He called himself, Vijay's friend, Natwar. Vijay Singh tried to be brave. He called the ghost to come out of the darkness. Looking into Natwar's face, Vijay Singh called him a weak liar. He showed no signs of fear. The ghost felt insulted.

II

Vijay Singh proceeded to test the ghost's strength. He offered him a piece of stone and asked him to squeeze the liquid out of it. The ghost tried hard but failed. Vijay Singh secretly crushed the egg and the yellow part flowed out. He gave the ghost another piece of rock to crush. The ghost failed the test again. Vijay Singh crushed the lump of salt. The powder tasted saltish.

The ghost then planned to kill Vijay Singh secretly. He took Vijay Singh to his cave and offered him a luxurious bed to sleep on, complete with pillows. Vijay Singh saw through the ghost's trick. He put a round pillow on the bed and he sat himself in a corner. The ghost at break of day struck the pillow seven times. He was happy now. He thought he had killed his enemy.

Vijay Singh then returned to his bed. He began to groan as if in disgust. The ghost was shocked to hear the noise. Vijay Singh told the ghost that his cave was filled with insects. He was sleeping soundly when that insect came to trouble him. The ghost got panicked and fled. Vijay Singh returned to his village with all the treasure left behind by the ghost. He married the old woman's grand-daughter. He gave up boasting. No traveller was thereafter looted or killed in the Haunted Desert.

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

EXERCISE

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1. What was Vijay Singh's weakness? Which awkward situation did it push him into?

Ans. Vijay Singh was a wrestler. He was proud of his physical strength. His chief weakness was that he was boastful. He wanted to meet a ghost and teach him a lesson.

His weakness pushed him into a difficult situation. He was told to go to the Haunted Deserts to meet the ghost. He could not say 'No' to the suggestion.

2. Was the old woman's gift to Vijay Singh eccentric? Why?

Ans. The old woman was known to be eccentric or whimsical. She put a small packet into Vijay Singh's hand. It contained a lump of salt and an egg. It was not an eccentric act. Both the gifts proved very useful in his fight against the ghost.

3. Why did Vijay Singh ask the ghost disguised as Natwar to come closer?

Ans. Vijay Singh asked the ghost in the guise of Natwar to come closer. Like all good wrestlers, he wanted to size up his enemy ghost.

4. What made the ghost speechless? Why?

Ans. Vijay Singh tried to sound brave. He looked at Natwar's face. He declared that Natwar was a plain, lying ghost. The ghost felt insulted, shocked and speechless.

5. Why did Vijay Singh say "Appearances can be deceptive"?

Ans. The ghost first tried to demoralise Vijay Singh. He said that Vijay Singh was no match to him. At this Vijay Singh also tried to frighten the ghost. He agreed to demonstrate his strength.

EXERCISE

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1. How did Vijay Singh use the egg? How did he use the lump of salt?

Ans. Vijay Singh challenged the ghost to squeeze a piece of rock. The ghost tried his best but could not crush the piece of rock. Vijay Singh took advantage of the darkness. He took out the egg from his pocket. Taking the rock as well as the egg, he pressed the egg and claimed victory. Next time, he picked up another piece of rock and gave it to the ghost to crush it. The ghost again tried his best to crush the stone but in vain. Meanwhile Vijay Singh took out the lump of salt from his pocket and crushed it easily. This time too, he proved himself victorious. Thus, by using the egg and the lump of salt he successfully outwitted the ghost.

2. Why did Vijay Singh conclude that the ghost would not be a worthy opponent to him? Was he fair in his judgement?

Ans. Vijay Singh claimed victory over the ghost dishonestly. He gave the ghost a piece of rock on both the occasions. The ghost failed to crush them while Vijay Singh made use of the salt and the egg successfully. Thus he proved the ghost a weakling in an unfair manner.

3. Why did Vijay Singh ask the ghost to accompany him to town next day?

Ans. Vijay Singh wanted to take the ghost to his town to impress his people. He wanted to present the ghost there as his prisoner.

4. What made the ghost believe Vijay Singh was dead?

Ans. Vijay Singh saw through the ghost's plan. He got out of the bed and put a round pillow in his place. The ghost struck the bolster hard with his mace or heavy stick. Since he didn't hear any groan, he took into his head that Vijay Singh was dead.

5. Vijay Singh complained of insects in the cave. What was he referring to, and why?

Ans. Vijay Singh complained of insects in the cave. He was, in fact, referring to the ghost. He compared the ghost to a hateful weakling like an insect.

6. Was it really a ghost who Vijay Singh befooled? Who do you think it was?

Ans. The story of the trial of strength between a ghost and Vijay Singh cannot be true or believable.

Nobody can see a ghost in human form. It does not live in a house or a cave. It does not collect wealth. It does not panic or run away in fear.

The ghost in the story was, only a dacoit who used to rob the rich and kill them.