

SUMMARY OF THE LESSON

Tansen has been the greatest musician of India. He was the only child of Mukandan Misra. The family lived in Gwalior. The child was naughty from an early age. He used to play in the forest. He soon learnt to copy the calls of birds and animals.

Once the famous singer Swami Haridas was travelling through the forest. Tansen thought it would be fun to frighten him. He hid behind a tree and roared like a tiger. Swamiji saw singing talent in the boy. He met Tansen's father. He promised to make the boy a great singer.

Tansen spent some eleven years with his guru. His parents died. He fulfilled his father's dying wish and went to Mohammad Ghaus of Gwalior. He was often taken to the court of Rani Mrignaini. He married a lady of the court named Hussaini. They had five children.

Emperor Akbar was impressed by Tansen's voice. He wanted the singer to join his court in 1556. Tansen soon became Akbar's favourite.

Some courtiers grew jealous of him. They wanted Tansen to prove his worth as a singer. They asked Tansen to sing Raga Deepak. It was like playing with fire. The Raga could not only set the lamps alight but also burn the singer to ashes.

Tansen got an idea. He knew the magic of Raga Megh. If it was sung properly, it would bring rain. Hence, Tansen taught his daughter Saraswati and her friend Rupwati to sing Raga Megh.

On the appointed day Tansen sang Raga Deepak. It caused a lot of heat. Flames shot up and lighted the lamps. Just then the two girls sang Raga Megh. The rain poured down and put out the

fire. Tansen was saved from burning. Akbar rewarded him and punished his enemies.

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

EXERCISE

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1. Why did Swami Haridas say Tansen was 'talented'?

Ans. Tansen, as a child, learnt to imitate the calls of birds and animals. One day he roared like a tiger in the forest. He intended to frighten the travellers. Swami Haridas was impressed by the skill of the boy. So he called Tansen 'talented'.

2. Why did Akbar ask Tansen to join his court?

Ans. Tansen learnt music from Swami Haridas for eleven years. He himself became a famous singer. Sometimes he sang before Emperor Akbar. Akbar was so impressed that he asked Tansen to join his court in 1556.

3. How do we know that Akbar was fond of Tansen? Give two reasons.

Ans. Tansen became the favourite of the Emperor. Akbar used to visit Tansen's house to hear him practise music. He asked Tansen to sing whenever he had the mood. He also gave Tansen many presents.

4. What did the other courtiers feel about Tansen?

Ans. Tansen's popularity made other courtiers jealous of him. They made up their mind to ruin Tansen somehow.

5. (i) What happens if Raga Deepak is sung properly?

(ii) Why did Tansen's enemies want him to sing the Raga?

Ans. (i) If Raga Deepak was sung properly, the air became so hot that the singer was burnt to ashes.

(ii) The courtiers who were Tansen's enemies, wanted the singer to sing Raga Deepak and die of heat.

6. Why did Tansen agree to sing Raga Deepak?

Ans. Tansen agreed to sing Raga Deepak because he dared not disobey the Emperor. Secondly, he wanted to prove his ability.

7. (i) What steps did he take to save himself?

(ii) Did his plan work? How?

Ans. (i) Tansen was a little worried as well as afraid. He took two steps for his safety. He requested the king to give him some time. Next, he taught his daughter and her friend to sing Raga Megh.

(ii) Yes, Tansen's plan worked. His singing made the environment hot. Flames shot up and lighted the lamps. Just then, the two girls started singing Raga Megh. The rains came down suddenly and saved Tansen's life.

