

Everything Happens for Good

Warm-up Session

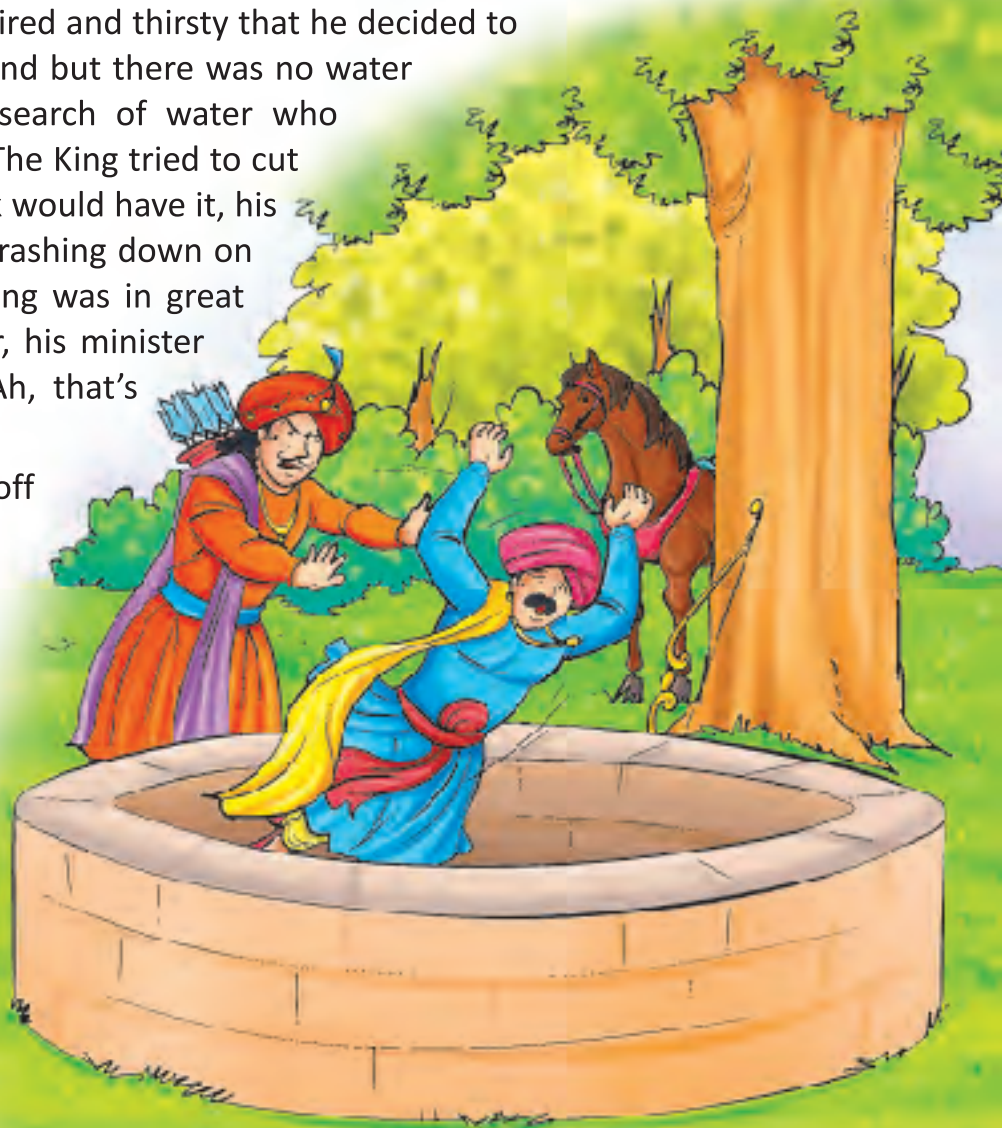
The minister was optimistic. He always believed that whatever happens in life happens for good. The King did not believe on this axiom. However, a time came when the King was also compelled to believe it. What made the King believe it? Let's read the story and find out.

Long ago, there ruled a King over a small kingdom. He was fond of hunting and often went out with his retinue for hunting in the nearby forests. His minister was very intelligent and also a very optimistic person. He was famous for seeing the rosy side of things. In fact, so strong was his habit of finding good in everything that at times this annoyed his ruler. One day, the King went out on a hunting trip through a dense forest which went on for miles. His minister also accompanied him on the trip. The King saw a deer and chased it. Soon all his retinue, except the minister was left far behind. They gave a long chase but could not get the deer. At last, the King became so tired and thirsty that he decided to have some rest. The King looked around but there was no water nearby. So he sent his minister in search of water who returned soon with a green coconut. The King tried to cut the coconut with his sword but as luck would have it, his sword slipped in his hand and came crashing down on one of his toes, cutting it off! The King was in great pain and began to grumble. However, his minister was not perturbed and only said, "Ah, that's wonderful!"

"What!" yelled the King; "I cut off my toe and you say it is wonderful!"

"This is a real blessing," replied the minister. The King became furious, thinking his minister was making fun of him.

"Take it from me," said the minister, "behind this apparent bad accident there is some good which we cannot foresee." The King was at the end of his patience however, he did not utter a word and began to move back.



After going some distance, the King noticed a dry well on the side of the road. He thought of teaching his minister a lesson. So, he suddenly pushed his minister into the well. Then he set out again to limp back to his kingdom.

Now the forest was often frequented by wild tribes of those days, some of whom were head-hunters. On the way, the King met a band of those head-hunters who imprisoned him. They decided that, being royalty, he would make an excellent sacrifice for this month's festival. The warriors carried him to the tribal priest. It was the duty of this priest to approve all of the offerings that were to be presented. The priest was most particular to see that the man to be offered to the gods was perfect in all respects. While anointing the King's body the priest noticed that he was lacking one toe.



The priest released him saying, "I am sorry but we cannot sacrifice this man as the gods will not accept anyone who is not whole-bodied." Naturally, the King was delighted and began hobbling away toward his palace.

'Aha!' he thought, 'so his minister had been right - there was indeed a hidden blessing behind that accident.'

As fast as his wounded leg would allow, he turned around and went back to the well where he had left his minister. There he was, standing down in the well and whistling happily to himself.

Now the King managed to reach down far enough to grasp the hand of the minister and with great effort pulled him up. Then he apologized for having doubted him and having thought him a fool.

"I am really sorry that I had thrown you in there," said the King as he dusted off his courtier. "I was taken prisoner by some wild native head-hunters who were about to make me a

sacrifice victim. Then they saw that my toe was missing, and let me go. And you foretold all this, in a way. Can you ever forgive me?" he added.

"You need not apologize at all; it was a blessing that you threw me down the well and left me there."

"Now, how are you going to make something positive out of that?" asked the King.

"Well," said the minister with a smile, "if I had been with you they would surely have taken me for their sacrifice."

Words to know

retinue = attendants, followers; **optimistic** = positive, hopeful; **annoyed** = angry, irritated; **trip** = expedition; **grumble** = complain; **perturbed** = worried, nervous; **yelled** = shouted, screamed; **furious** = angry, enraged; **apparent** = obvious, visible; **foresee** = predict; **frequented** = invaded, searched; **head-hunters** = wild tribes who cut and collect heads of enemies as trophies; **imprisoned** = made captive; **royalty** = royals; aristocrats; **anointing** = rubbing, smearing; **hobbling** = limping; **walking with difficulty**, **grasp** = clutch, grab; **victim** = prey; **foretold** = predicted.

EXERCISE ZONE

Lesson Insight

Test Your Comprehension

A. Answer the following questions briefly:

1. What was the King fond of?
2. What was his minister famous for?
3. Why did the King push his minister into the well?

B. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ'S)

Tick (✓) the correct options:

1. The King's minister was very intelligent and also a very _____ person.
(a) optimistic (b) pessimistic (c) practical
2. The King saw a _____ and chased it.
(a) tiger (b) lion (c) deer
3. The King became _____, thinking his minister was making fun of him.
(a) sad (b) furious (c) disturbed
4. The warriors carried him to the tribal _____.
(a) deity (b) priest (c) chief
5. There he was, standing down in the well and _____ happily to himself.
(a) whistling (b) singing (c) admiring

C. Answer the following questions:

1. How did the King and his minister get separated from the retinue?
2. What happened when the King tried to cut the coconut with his sword?
3. Who did the King meet on his way back? What did they do?
4. Why did the priest release the King?
5. Why did the King apologize to his minister?

D. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements:

1. The King killed many deer during his hunting expedition.
2. The minister brought a green coconut for the King.
3. While running away from the head-hunters, the minister fell into a dry well.
4. The priest released the King because one of his toes was missing.
5. The King apologized to his minister for having doubted him.

E. Fill in the blanks choosing suitable words from the lesson:

1. One day, the King went out on a _____ trip through a dense forest.
2. The King looked around but there was no _____ nearby.
3. The King's sword _____ in his hand and came crashing down on one of his toes.
4. They decided that, being _____, he would make an excellent sacrifice.
5. Now the King managed to reach down far enough to _____ the hand of the minister.

F. Who said the following statements and to whom:

Statement	Said by	said to
1. "Ah, that's wonderful!"	_____	_____
2. "This is a real blessing."	_____	_____
3. "I am sorry but we cannot sacrifice this man."	_____	_____
4. "I am really sorry that I had thrown you in there."	_____	_____
5. "How are you going to make something positive out of that?"	_____	_____

G. HOTS Questions (Think and Answer):

1. 'The minister was famous for seeing the rosy side of things.' Give an example from the lesson to prove the statement.
2. Why did the priest think that the King was not suitable for sacrifice? Elaborate in your own words.

Sharpen Your Vocabulary

A. Find one word from the lesson for each of the following expressions. Follow the example:

a territory or state ruled by a king or queen:

kingdom

1. body of attendants accompanying an important person: _____
2. a big green fruit, the water of which helps in quenching thirst : _____
3. invocation of divine favour: _____
4. one who is engaged to worship a deity in a temple: _____
5. slaughter of an animal or person as an offering to a deity: _____

B. Write the opposites for each of the following words:

Column 'A'

Column 'B'

- | | |
|-------------|-------|
| 1. often | _____ |
| 2. dense | _____ |
| 3. patience | _____ |
| 4. lacking | _____ |
| 5. accept | _____ |

C. Use the following words and make meaningful sentences of your own:

1. kingdom : _____
2. annoyed : _____
3. grumble : _____
4. foresee : _____
5. prisoner : _____

🔑 Improve Your Speaking Skills

❖ The King went for hunting in the forest. Besides his soldiers, his minister also accompanied him on the trip. While chasing a deer, the King and his minister were separated from their soldiers. The thirsty King was cutting a coconut to quench his thirst. While doing so, he accidentally cut one of his toes. The King was in great pain and began to grumble. However, his minister was not perturbed.

Take hints from the lesson and frame an imaginary conversation between the King and his minister on the matter.

King : Oh! I've _____.

Minister : But how _____?

King : I was _____ and _____ slipped.

Minister : Don't worry! Everything _____.

King : What! I _____ and you say it happened for good?

Minister : Take it from me. Behind _____ foresee.

King : I don't _____.

Minister : You will see _____.

6. A handwriting that cannot be read: _____
7. A life history written by oneself: _____
8. A life history written by somebody else: _____
9. A person who cannot read or write: _____
10. A sound that cannot be heard: _____

B. Preposition of Place:

A Preposition of Place shows the location of a person, place or thing in relation to other similar object or thing.

Read the following examples:

- The cat is sleeping **under** the chair.
- Some children are playing **in** the park.
- My grandmother is sitting **on** a sofa.

In the above sentences, the words in colour are Prepositions of Place. Some other Prepositions of Place are- **behind**, **between**, **in front of**, **beside**, **next to**, **near**, **at** etc.

C. Fill in the blanks with suitable Prepositions of Place:

1. I have kept my bag _____ the table.
2. Their house is _____ the hospital.
3. Please come and sit _____ me.
4. The train is running _____ the bridge.
5. The car is moving _____ the bus.
6. The post office is _____ our school.
7. All the students are _____ the class.
8. The patient is lying _____ the bed.
9. The beggar is standing _____ the gate.
10. The bird flew _____ my head.

Time for Activities

- A. Is the title of the lesson appropriate? Arrange a discussion in the class.
- B. Do you remember any incident that had worried you but turned out to be good in the end? Tell about it to your partner.