

3. A Tough Test



Shibi was a great King. He was known for his kind and generous deeds. He never refused to help anyone. His fame reached even heaven. Indradev decided to test him. He wanted to know how generous Shibi really was. He look help of Yam, the God of Death.

One morning Shibi took his seat in the court. Just then a dove fell near his feet. It was frightened and unable to fly. At that time hawk came chasing the dove. The dove was, Indradev and the hawk was Yam. The dove requested in a fearful voice, “Oh, King! Save me from this hawk, it will kill me.”

The king gently took the bird in his hand. Then the hawk spoke to Shibi, “Give me the dove; it is my food. I am hungry. If you do not give me the bird, I will starve and die.” The King replied, “It is my duty to protect this dove. I will give you meat as much as you want, but let this bird go.” But the hawk said, “I do not eat anything killed by others. I will have only fresh meat. If you are prepared to give me the flesh equal to the weight of the bird from your own body, I will take it.” Shibi agreed and ordered his men, “Go and bring a balance.” He cut a portion of his hand and put it in one pan of the balance. The bird was put in the other. It was not equal to the weight of the bird. So, he cut some more. Even then, the flesh was not enough. Then Shibi asked his guards to cut off his arms and legs. The weight was still not sufficient. He then asked them to put his whole body on the balance. Even then, the pan of the dove remained heavier.

At this point, Indradev and Yam appeared before Shibi and blessed him.

When the gods saw this, they were very happy and a voice from the sky said, “O Shibi, we are pleased to see your kindness. You have always protected those who came to your shelter. You have set an example. May you live long and may your kingdom prosper!” So, Shibi got his hands and legs back. And thereafter he ruled the country for many many years,

PRACTICE

1 (A) Join ‘A’ with ‘B’ for opposites:

A	B	Answer
1. pleased	a. insufficient	1. -
2. generous	b. selfish	2. -
3. enough	c. fearless	3. -
4. frightened	d. hell	4. -
5. heaven	e. unhappy	5. -



1. (B) Make sentences using the words:

kindness great tired unable flesh

2. (A) Select the correct answers for the questions:

1. Who took the form of a dove?
 (a) Shibi (b) Indradev (c) Yam
2. Who took the form of a hawk?
 (a) Shibi (b) Indradev (c) Yam
3. King Shibi was known for his
 (a) cruelty (b) bravery (c) generosity

2. (B) Write who said to whom:

Sentence	Who said?	To whom?
I am hungry.		
Oh, king! save me.		
Go and bring a balance.		
O Shibi, we are pleased to see your kindness.		