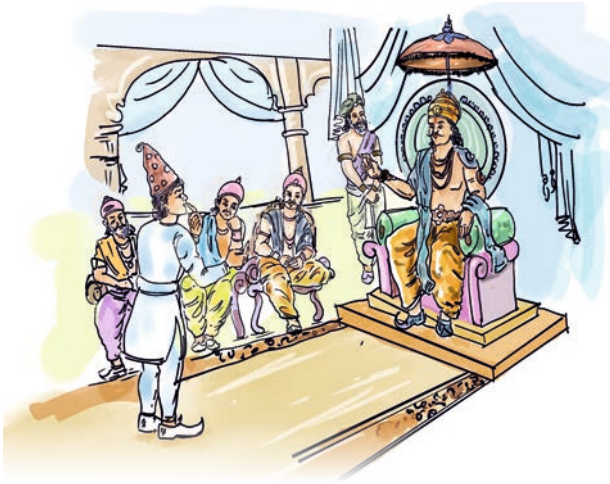


4. Witty Simpleton



(1) Many years ago, there was a king in Bengal. His name was Raja Krishna Chandra. There was a jester in his court. His name was Gopal Bhand. People said, “Gopal is a fool.” But actually, he was wise and witty. He played tricks. He cracked jokes. The king listened to his jokes and laughed.

Once Gopal met the king in the morning. He said, “Good morning, Your Majesty.” The king said, “Good morning. Where are you going, Gopal?” “To the temple, My Lord.” replied Gopal.

Then the king went to his garden for a walk. There was a stone on the ground. The king fell and hurt his toe. He was angry. He said, “I saw Gopal’s face early in the morning and I hurt my toe. Go and bring him to the court.” The soldier brought Gopal in front of the king. The king said, “I saw your face in the morning and I hurt my toe.” Then he said to the soldiers, “Take him to the prison.” Gopal did not say anything. He looked at the ceiling. The king said, “What are you thinking?” Gopal said, “Your Majesty! You saw my face in the morning and hurt your toe. But I saw your face in the morning and I’m going to prison.” The king laughed. He freed Gopal and gave him a prize. Gopal’s ready wit saved him.



(2) Once Gopal’s wife said to him, “Everyone has a ‘palkhi’. But you have no ‘palkhi’. Get a ‘palkhi’ for yourself from the king. He said, “OK.” It was evening. It was time for the court. Gopal went to the market. He called a strong labourer. He said, “Please, carry me to the king’s court in your basket.” The man agreed. Gopal sat in the basket. The man carried him on his head. Soon they reached the court. The king saw Gopal in the basket. The king asked, “What is this, Gopal?” Gopal replied, “Your Highness, this is my transport. All the courtiers have ‘palkhi’. I have no ‘palkhi’. This basket is my ‘palkhi’.” The king laughed, and gave him a ‘palkhi’. Gopal returned his home in the ‘palkhi’. His wife was very happy. What a Witty Simpleton!



PRACTICE

1. (A) Study the words:

Words Related to the King

For his Family Members	In the Court	For his Kingdom
• queen	• courtiers	• state
• prince	• jester	• kingdom
• princess	• gatekeeper	• prison
	• soldiers	• subject
	• Your Majesty	
	• Your Highness	
	• My Lord	

1. (B) Make a list of ten vehicles:

1. bus
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

2. (A) Answer in one or two words:

1. Who was Gopal? _____
2. What saved Gopal? _____
3. What is common in both the stories? _____
4. What do you like about Gopal? _____



2. (B) Answer the questions:

1. What happened to the king in the garden?
2. What did the king say to his soldiers?
3. What did Gopal's wife want?
4. How did Gopal go to the court?