



Class: IX      QUESTION BANK ON IN THE KINGDOM OF FOOLS  
Sub: ENGLISH

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**1. How was the Kingdom of Fools different from any other place?**

**Or**

**What was so strange about the Kingdom of Fools?**

**Ans.** The Kingdom of Fools was strange and different from any other place. It was governed by an idiot king and his silly minister. They passed an order according to which people had to work at night and sleep during the day. Even the cattle were made to sleep during the day. In addition, everything had the same cost – one duddu.

**2. Why didn't the people go against the order of the king and the minister?**

The people did not go against the order of the king and the minister because of fear of death. They had been told that anyone who disobeyed would be punished with death.

**3. Now justice had come full circle, thought the king. What argument did the merchant come up with? What counter-argument did the king give?**

**Ans.** The merchant argued that his father had ordered the jewellery. Therefore, he (merchant) was innocent. The king said that the merchant had inherited the riches as well as the sins of his father.

**4. Why did the guru want to leave this Kingdom quickly? Why did the disciple stay on?**

**Ans.** The guru realised that it was the Kingdom of Fools. He decided to leave the kingdom at once. He told his disciple that where fools ruled, their lives could be in danger. But the disciple was happy there. Everything was cheap in the kingdom. He did not want to go. So the guru left the kingdom. The disciple stayed on the sake of cheap food

**5. What was 'foolish' about the king's trial of the merchant?**

**Ans.** The merchant had not killed the thief. He was being punished only because his wall had fallen on the thief. Secondly, he said that his father had been to blame. But because his father had died, the king ordered the merchant to be executed in place of his father.

**6. Who were the people questioned during the course of the trial, and what was each person's defence?**

**Ans.** First, the owner of the house was summoned. But he said that the bricklayer who had constructed the wall was responsible. The bricklayer said that when he was making a wall, a dancing girl distracted his attention. The dancing girl said that a goldsmith did not make jewellery in time. So, she had to pass through the street several times. The goldsmith said that he had to make ornaments for a wedding in the rich man's house. So he could not finish the jewellery of the dancing girl in time. He was the same owner who had been summoned first of all.

**7. Who was finally blamed for the crime and why?**

**Ans.** The rich owner of the house was finally blamed for the crime. He said that his father had ordered for the jewellery and he should have been responsible. But because his father had died, the king gave judgement that he would die in his father's place.

**8. How did the king and his minister die in place of the guru and his disciple?**

**Ans.** The king told the executioners to put to death the first and second man who come to them the next morning. That night, the king and the minister went secretly to the prison. They released the guru and his disciple. They disguised as the guru and the disciple. The next morning, the executioners killed them.

**9. How did the kingdom become normal again?**

**Ans.** When the people came to know of the death of their king and minister, they mourned. They discussed the future of the kingdom. They requested the guru and the disciple to be their king and minister. They agreed to rule the kingdom, but on one condition. The old laws would be 'changed. The good days returned to the kingdom. Thus, the kingdom became normal again.

**10. What was ironical about the judgement passed by the king holding the dancing girl as the culprit?**

**Ans.** In his judgement, the king termed the burglar as 'poor' and 'innocent'. He blamed the dancing girl for causing the death of the 'poor burglar' and killing an 'innocent man'. Expressing sympathy in this manner for a law-breaker was ironical.

**11. What problem arose before the final execution of the criminal?**

**Ans.** Minutes before the execution of the merchant, the minister realized that the merchant was too thin and could not be properly executed on the stake. So the problem was that the execution orders had been issued but could not be completed because the accused did not fit the stake.

**12. Why did the king's servants catch the disciple?**

**Or**

**Why was the disciple chosen to replace the merchant at the stake?**

**Ans.** The servants of the foolish king caught the disciple because they wanted a fat man to replace the rich merchant who was very thin and did not fit the stake. The disciple had grown fat after feasting for months on bananas, rice, wheat, and ghee and fitted the stake properly.

**13. Why did the guru want that he and his disciple should die first?**

**Ans.** The guru claimed that whosoever died on the stake of the god of justice, would become the king and minister in the next life. He said that they were sick of their ascetic way of life and wanted to die first to enjoy themselves as a king and a minister in their next life.

**14. What was the fight that the guru and his disciple got into? Why?**

**Ans.** The guru and his disciple fought over the right to be the first one to die at the stake. They had got into this fight as part of the plan to rescue the disciple. They wanted to make the king believe that getting killed on the stake of the god of justice would make the person the next king.

**15. Why did the king decide to postpone the execution of the guru and his disciple?**

**Ans.** The king postponed the execution to the next day in order to consult his minister in secret and find a way to prevent someone else from becoming the king and the minister of their kingdom in the next life.

**16. How did the guru get rid of the foolish king?**

**Or**

**How did the guru succeed in befooling the king?**

**Or**

**Why did the foolish king decide to die at the stake?**

**Ans.**The guru succeeded in getting rid of the foolish king by befooling him. He convinced the king that the person to die first at the stake of the god of justice would be reborn as king. The foolish king believed this and readily agreed to die at the stake lest his kingdom was taken over by someone else.

**17. What did the king and his minister decide in secret? Why?**

**Ans.** The king and his minister decided to go to the stake themselves and be reborn as the king and the minister again. They decided so because they did not feel it right to give their kingdom to others in next life and also because they believed that holy man did not tell lies.

**18. What was the final order of the king to the executioners?**

**Ans.**The king told the executioners that two criminals would be sent to them at night and they should put them to death in the order they arrive. He instructed them not to make any mistake in executing this final order.

**19. How did the executioners mistake the king and his minister for the guru and his disciple?**

**Ans.**The king had ordered the executioners to kill the two men that would be sent at night. These two men were the king and his minister themselves. They had disguised themselves as the guru and his disciple respectively after setting the duo free. The executioners made a mistake because they promptly followed the order without confirming the true identity of the two men sent for execution.

**20. Why were the people of the kingdom confused when they saw the dead bodies of the king and his minister?**

**Ans.**The people were confused when they saw the dead bodies of the king and his minister because they had no idea about the turn of events that led to the revised execution orders. Their kingdom was without a ruler and they did not know what to do.

**21. Who became the king and the minister of the kingdom in the end? Why?**

**Ans.**In the end, the guru and his disciple became the king and the minister respectively. It happened so because the people were worried about the future of their kingdom after losing the foolish king and his minister. They begged, argued and finally persuaded the two of them to agree.

**22. On what condition did the guru and his disciple agree to rule that kingdom?**

**Ans.**The guru and his disciple agreed to rule the kingdom on the condition that they could change all the old laws. They made the kingdom normal again by reversing the order of night and day and revising the prices of things.

**23. Fools cannot continue with their follies for long. How can you justify this statement in relation to the story?**

**Ans.** The king and his minister had made new but foolish laws for their people. They just wanted to be different from other kings, so they decided to change day for night and night for day. They continued with their follies for quite some time until they were caught in their own trap. The

wise guru skilfully tackled them and not only managed to save his disciple's life but also rid the kingdom of the foolish rule. The follies could not be continued for long since the king or his minister could not see through the plan of the guru. Not willing to give away his kingdom, the king and his minister disguised themselves as the guru and his disciple and walked into their self-made death trap.

**24. The people of the Kingdom of Fools were not so foolish after all. They made the Guru as their kings. Comment.**

**Ans.** In the Kingdom of Fools, everything looked odd. The disciple was arrested in place of the rich merchant. He was to be executed soon but the disciple started praying. The guru reached there and made a plan to save the disciple's life. The king and his minister became the victims of this plan and got themselves executed. Now there was no king in the kingdom. The throne was vacant. People wanted that a wise person should become the king. After the death of the king and the disciple, the people were impressed by the wisdom and power of the Guru. They thought that if the Guru and his disciple became the king and the minister, there would be peace all around. So, the people chose to crown the Guru and his disciple.

**25. Arguing with a fool proves there are two. How does the wise guru find a way out without arguing with the king?**

**Ans.** Arguing with a fool is a futile effort because he does not have the humility to listen to others. The foolish king misused his authority to force decisions on his subjects. No one could disobey his orders. This made him intolerant and he could not be made to see reason. The wise guru knew from experience that arguing with such a fool would make him also look like a fool. Hence, he found his way out of the difficult situation that threatened the life of his disciple by resorting to flattery and by appealing to the king's dumbness. He aroused the curiosity of the king by faking a fight with his disciple over going to the stake. Then, he eulogized the king, his kingdom, and his fine sense of judgement. This entrapped the foolish king and eventually, he got himself and his minister killed in the place of the guru and his disciple. Thus, the kingdom got rid of the foolish king and his equally foolish minister and the guru and his disciple's lives were saved, too. Thus, by not arguing, the wise guru resolved the tricky situation.

**26. Decisions should be made with a cool and rational mind. Discuss with reference to the story "In the Kingdom of Fools".**

**Or**

**Hasty decisions are often wrong decisions. Discuss with reference to the story "In the Kingdom of Fools".**

**Ans.** The story, "In the Kingdom of Fools" teaches us an important lesson that decisions should be made with a cool mind and rational thought. Hasty decisions always have dangerous consequences. The disciple got tempted by the cheap goods available in the Kingdom of Fools and did not heed his guru's advice. Instead of thinking rationally, he made a hasty decision to stay back. Ultimately, he fell a victim to the senseless judgement of the foolish king and came on the verge of losing his life. If he had taken some time to review his desire to stay back, he would have certainly realized the importance of the guru's advice. The king's and his minister's decision too were in haste that cost them their lives. If they too had reviewed their decision of going to the stake to fulfil their greed to be the king and minister in their next life, they would have certainly lived on as the king and the minister. Thus, the story emphasizes the value of making decisions wisely by weighing all the pros and cons. A hasty or a foolish decision can have disastrous consequences.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Choose the correct answer:

1. Name the author of 'In the Kingdom of Fools'.

- a) Ruskin Bond
- b) Oscar Wilde
- c) **A.K Ramanujan**
- d) Harsh Mander

2. In the kingdom of fools, \_\_\_\_\_

- a) the king was an idiot
- b) the minister was an idiot
- c) **both the king and the minister were idiots**
- d) neither the king nor the minister was an idiot

3. The king and the minister ordered that \_\_\_\_\_

- a) everyone should be awake at night
- b) people should do their work after dark
- c) everyone should go to bed as soon as the sun rose
- d) **everyone should follow all the above directions.**

4. It surprised the guru and his disciple to see that everything in the shops of the town

- \_\_\_\_\_
- a) cost a rupee
  - b) **cost a duddu**
  - c) cost too much
  - d) cost five rupees

5. The wall of the old house collapsed when the thief \_\_\_\_\_

- a) was making a hole in it
- b) was going in through the hole
- c) was trying to hide under the wall
- d) **was carrying out the loot through the hole**

6. The dancing girl put the blame on \_\_\_\_\_

- a) the bricklayer
- b) the rich merchant
- c) **the goldsmith**
- d) the rich merchant's father

7. The king said that the merchant had inherited \_\_\_\_\_

- a) his father's riches
- b) his father's sins
- c) his father's riches as well as sins**
- d) none of the above

**8 The Disciple was chosen for the stake because\_\_\_\_\_**

- a) he was a fool.
- b) a fat man was needed.**
- c) he had a guru.
- d) he was thin.

**9. Who was executed in the end?**

- a) The king and his minister.**
- b) The guru and his disciple.
- c) The merchant and his father.
- d) The bricklayer and the goldsmith.

**10.The new king after the execution of previous king was\_\_\_\_\_**

- a) the guru**
- b) the disciple
- c) the king's minister
- d) the king's son