

Assignment 2

World Famous Philosophers, Sages/Saints and Great Kings -
(UPS2002A)

Submitted by:

Krishnaraj Thadesar

Roll Number:

109054 Div. 9 - I3

Submitted to:

Mrs. Sonal Parmar

On:

19th September 2021

Q1.Rajmata Jijau's role is significant in the upbringing of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj - Explain.

Rajmata Jijau, the mother of Shivaji, the Maratha king, was a woman who believed in doing the right thing, no matter what the circumstances.

The world should know Jijau as – 'The Mother who nurtured her son to be Shivaji – the founder of Maratha empire'. This is because Jijau's contribution in the making of Shivaji was enormous. We really owe the Hindavi Swarajya to Jijau because without her upbringing and the values she inculcated into her child, we could not have got a king, a warrior like Shivaji.

She was Herself a fierce warrior and administrator, and was instrumental in Shivaji's quests to establish the Maratha Empire. *She served as the queen regent in her son's kingdom for which she is commonly known as Rajmata Jijabai.* A champion of Hind Swaraj who stood against the Mughal Empire, the lady is one of the most inspirational historical figures of the country. Jijabai was known for her virtue, valour and foresight, traits which she passed down to her son Shivaji. She was also a skilled horse rider and had a way with swords that would *put decent fighters to shame.*

Jijabai was married at a very young age to Shahaji Bhosle, son of Maloji Shiledar. Her husband also served the Nizam Shah. They had eight children, including six daughters and two sons. One of them was Shivaji.

Jijabai was known to be an influential and determined woman who was an embodiment of self-respect and virtue. Famed for her fore-sight, Jijabai was herself an able warrior and administrator. She passed down her quality traits to the growing Shivaji, and instilled within him a sense of duty, courage and fortitude to overcome any hardship arising. Under her guidance and care, Shivaji *developed within him a human touch that saw him harbor a great respect for all women*, religious tolerance, and justice, along with the love for his country, his religion and his quest for freedom of Maharashtra.

She was a woman with vision, foresightedness and was passionate about her dream of achieving freedom for all her people. Her conduct was so influential that all mothers in her kingdom were willingly ready to sacrifice their sons to establish freedom. She is often referred as a 'Lioness' for all the bold and brave traits that Shivaji eventually got from his mother. She was the first mentor to Shivaji and was responsible for most of his education; having him learn about the Holy scriptures and arts of administration and weaponry, and the political situations in the land.

She raised Shivaji in such a manner that in an era where women were treated as inferior and being molested openly by the enemies, Shivaji grew up into a man, a king

who treated every woman, even those belonging to enemies camp with immense respect and he always kept safety of women as his top priority. Jijabai supported gender equality and rooted it in the culture that women are not inferior but should be treated as equals.

Jijabai's stellar qualities — like her independent nature, leadership skills, strong instinct to stand up against evil, passion for dreams, decision making ability and clarity of thought. Jijabai Bhosale was undoubtedly a great woman, a strong mother and a role model for today's women.

She was responsible for Shivaji's education and had him learn about the Hindu shastras and arts of administration and weaponry, and the political situation in the land of Bharata. She devoted her time in the administration, bringing up Shivaji and prayers & meditation. She even set the scene for social reforms in the Hindu society. She treated Shivaji's companions as her own sons and was a source of inspiration and courage for all of them.

Shivaji was inspired by her and took the Oath of Independence - **Swaraj** in the fort temple of Lord Raireswar in 1645 at the age of 17. Jijabai's contribution was enormous in the making of Shivaji's character impeccable, spotless and courageous.

Affectionately known as '*Rajmata*', Jijabai passed away soon just after 12 days following Shivaji's coronation, in the village of Pachad, at the foot of Fort Raigarh. Her death brought great sorrow to the entire kingdom and more on Shivaji who mourned so deeply. Today, the region of Raigadh is regarded sacred, and its several statues of the Mother Jija with the boy Shivaji, makes it reminiscent of the maternal bonding between two great inspirational figures of Indian history.

Jijabai's dream was fulfilled when she witnessed the coronation of her son, Shivaji, as he ascended the golden throne in 1674, to become leader of the legendary Marathas.

Shivaji owes his greatness to the inspiration of his mother who dedicated her life to bringing up her son to become one of the greatest rulers of the Maratha Empire. In her entire life she had to experience sorrow after sorrow and she did so with great courage and dignity. Today especially in Maharashtra she is regarded as an ideal mother. Her upbringing of Shivaji is a subject of folklore.

Q2. Explain the life long struggle and commitment of Maharana Pratap towards motherland.

Maharana Pratap, is a name worth remembering to begin one's day with. His name is engraved with gold among the list of valiant kings who protected the Nation, Dharma, Culture and Freedom of this country by sacrificing his life. In the history of India, this name has always proved to be motivating for qualities like *valour, bravery, sacrifice and martyrdom*. Many brave warriors like Bappa Rawal, Rana Hamir, Rana Sang were born unto the Sisodiya family of Mewar and were given the title of '*Rana*' but the title of '**Maharana**' was only bestowed on Pratap Singh.

Maharana Pratap was born in 1540 to Rana Uday Singh, the Second, of Mewar. Pratap was bold and brave right from his childhood and everyone was sure that he was going to be a very valiant person as he grew up. He was more interested in sports and learning to wield weapons rather than general education.

Many Rajput kings, abandoning their glorious traditions and fighting spirit, sent their daughters and daughters-in-law to Akbar with the purpose of gaining rewards and honour from Akbar. The Maharana was one of the very few that remained faithful to our motherland, and *refused* to give in to Akbar's tactics, wealth or Power.

Anguished by a long wait of 3 years and several attempts made by the Delhi emperor Akbar to bring Maharana Pratap under his clutches gone in vain, Akbar declared a war. On the yellow sand fields of Rajasthan, the **historic war of Haldighati** was fought on 18 June 1576 between Maharana Pratap Singh and Akbar's forces led by Raja Man Singh I of Amer.

He called a meeting of his trusted chieftains and made an appeal to them in his serious and lustrous speech, and said,

"My brave warrior brothers, our Motherland, this holy land of Mewar, is still under the clutches of the Mughals. Today, I take an oath in front of all of you that till Chittod is freed, I will not have food in gold and silver plates, will not sleep on a soft bed and will not stay in the palace; instead, I will eat food on a leaf-platter, sleep on the floor and stay in a hut. I will also not shave till Chittod is freed. My brave warriors, I am sure that you will support me in every way sacrificing your mind, body and wealth till this oath is fulfilled."

All the chieftains were inspired with the oath of their king and they too promised him that till their *last drop of blood*, they would help Rana Pratap Singh to free Chittod. His words were so powerful and filled with the fierce spirit to preserve the pride of

motherland, that it could motivate armies to give up their everything and change the course of a battle.

An army of **22,000** soldiers led by Maharana Pratap engaged the army of Akbar with **2,00,000** soldiers in a fierce battle. With a terrific war-cry, Maharana Pratap moved forward, his beloved horse Chetak pounced on the enemy's elephant, intimidating it with his pride and fierce courage, in the next moment Maharana rose above in the air and split the enemy of his motherland, Behlol Khan into two halves with a single swing of his mighty sword. His soldiers exhibited exemplary valour and grit in the battle. Although he had to retreat in the battle, Akbar's army was not successful in defeating the mighty warrior. The Battle was in fact won by the Maharana.

There is no comparison in history to his fight with a cruel emperor like Akbar. When almost the whole of Rajasthan was under the control of the Mughal Emperor Akbar, Maharana Pratap fought for 12 years to save Mewar. Akbar tried various means to defeat Maharana but he remained unbeatable till the end. Besides, he also freed a large portion of land in Rajasthan from the Mughals. He underwent so much of hardship but he preserved the name of his family and his Motherland from facing defeat. His life was so bright that the other name for freedom could have been 'Maharana Pratap'.

It was the Maharana's humility, compassion, and charisma that made him so dear to everyone. The brave king had a compassionate heart, which vowed to never attack an un-armed enemy. He was an ideal king who cared for his people like a father who cares for his son. A proud Rajput, he refused to submit before the Mughal forces led by Akbar even after his continuous efforts. He was the only Rajput ruler who dared to not just resist but defy the massive army of Akbar and fought until his last breath, preserving the pride and glory of his motherland.

Maharana Pratap breathed his last on 29th January 1597 at the age of 56 in Chavand. He died of injuries received during a hunting event. After the news of his death reached Akbar, it made even his greatest opponent shed a tear, of pain and loss in the memory of a mighty warrior

We offer an ode to his unparalleled bravery, selfless duty towards motherland, and unshakable grit and resilience against the expansionist Mughal forces, and aspire, to have at least 1 percent of the Determination, courage and loyalty towards our country, that he had.