

10/10/23

Chp. - 8 The Sermon at Benares

* Glossary :-

- 1) Chanced upon - came across by chance
- 2) Enlightenment - a state of right spiritual knowledge
- 3) Sermon - religious or moral talk
- 4) Dipping places - Bathing
- 5) Repaired - went to
- 6) Valley of desolation - an area filled with sorrow

* Thinking about the text :-

- Q1) When her son dies, Kisa Yautami goes from house to house. What does she ask for?
- When Kisa Yautami's son dies and, she goes from house to house asking if she could get some medicine that would cure her child. No, ~~she~~ she does not get it because her child is dead and no medicine could bring him back to life.

Q2] What does Kisa Yautami ask for, the second time around?

→ When Kisa Yautami met to the Buddha, he asked her to get a handful of mustard seeds from a house where no one had lost a child, husband, parent or friend. She went from house to house but could not get the mustard seeds because there was not a single house where no one had died in the family.

Q3] Why do you think Kisa Yautami ~~understo~~ understood this only the time?

→ Kisa Yautami understood the second time that death is common to all and she was being selfish in her grief. There was no house where some beloved had not died. Yes, this was what Buddha wanted her to understand.

Q4] What did Kisa Yautami understand second time? Did Buddha wanted her to understand this?

→ Earlier Kisa Yautami could experience only her personal loss. She had lost her beloved son. But later when she went from door to door to gather mustard seeds from households where death had never occurred, as instructed by the Buddha, she understood the reality that man is a mortal being. Every human being has to die someday and everyone grieves.

when someone dear dies. The Buddha changed her perception and she understood that man could not get peace of mind by grieving and life has to go on.

Q5] How do you usually understand the idea of 'Selfishness'? Was Kisa being 'Selfish in grief'?

→ Selfishness is preoccupation ~~of~~ with oneself. Kisa Gautami was not in a position to understand or think ^{about} other people's grief. It is natural to feel sad over the death of a dear one. When her young son died, she could not accept this fact and went around in all earnest, to try and revive her son. It was just the desperation, of a bereaved mother. It would be improper to say that Kisa was "Selfish in grief". Her's was a normal human reaction. Later, she realised that death is inevitable and she considered the fate of man who cannot escape death.

- sorrow
- suffering
- pain
- grief

* Theme of the story :

In the story the author is highlighting the power of an enlightened mind which possesses making a bereaved mother to come to terms with her lost. The Buddha in his sermon told mother that our life is grief and painful, everyone who takes birth has to die like the earthen vessels made by the potter are not permanent and will break one day. ^{Death} ~~Depth~~ spares none and everyone's grief cannot bring ^{the dead} back to life. Thus, suffering is unavoidable.

Wise people do not ^{grieve} ~~grief~~ as they know the truth and weeping does not bring peace of mind. ~~A~~ On the other hand, a person's pain becomes greater by ~~+~~ grieving and one who has ~~control~~ of grief has peace of mind, is ~~blessed~~ and learns to overcome sorrow.

Bibin

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Good!