**Unit # 2 Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai**

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|  | **Words** | **Meanings** |
| **1** | abundance | largness, richness, copiousness |
| **2** | ancestral | hereditary, familial |
| **3** | commence | begin, start |
| **4** | compile | assemble, compose |
| **5** | compose | write, create |
| **6** | delicate | fine, elegant |
| **7** | Devotees | followers, fans |
| **8** | devotion | faithfulness, loyality |
| **9** | dignity | worthy, esteem, respect |
| **10** | distant | faraway, unapproachable |
| **11** | dome | cupola |
| **12** | domestic | relating to home |
| **13** | elegant | stylish, graceful |
| **14** | extent | expanse |
| **15** | mausoleum | tomb, vault |
| **16** | mystic | Supernatural |
| **17** | oral | Verbal |
| **18** | pious | religious, dedicated, devoted |
| **19** | prosperous | flourish |
| **20** | restless | uneasy |
| **21** | reverence | respect, admire |
| **22** | shrine | tomb |
| **23** | spiritual | non-material, divine, sacred |
| **24** | tender | caring, kind-hearted, edible, soft |
| **25** | verses | stanzas, poetry |

**Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai**

**Multiple Choice Questions (M.C.Q’s)**

1. Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai is lovingly called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**a.** **Lal Latif** b. Saint Latif c. Haq Latif

1. Shah Latif’s ancestral roots lay in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. India b. Istanbul **c. Afghanistan**

1. Shah Latif’s father name was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. Sued Rahim Shah **b. Syed Habib Shah** c. Syed Karim Shah

1. Some historians say that his ancestors had migrated to Sindh from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**a. Hirat** b. Istanbul c. Basra

1. Shah Abdul Latif left his home and went to live on a mound in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. 1689 **b. 1742** c. 1713

1. He lived on the mound for the rest of his life and came to be known as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**a. Saint of Bhit**  b. Poet of Bhit c. musician of Bhit

1. Shah Latif was born in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. 1100 Hijri **b. 1102 Hijri** c. 1103 Hijri

1. Shah Latif was born in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. 1642 A.D b. 1660 A.D **c. 1689 A.D**

1. Shah Latif was born in a small village called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**a. Hala Haveli** b. Bhit Shah c. Tando Bago

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was the first teacher of Shah Latif.

**a. Akhund Noor Muhammad** b. Moulana jalaluddin c. Syed Karim Shah

1. Shah Latif married with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. Bibi Roshan Begum **b. Bibi Saidha Begum** c. Bibi Jahan Ara Begum

1. Close to the mound on which Lal Latif came to live is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. forest b. desert **c. lake**

1. Lal Latif died in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**a. 1752** b. 1751 c. 1750

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ built a shrine over Shah Latif’s grave.

**a. Ghulam Shah Kalhoro** b. Ghulam Jaskani c. Ghulam Shah Talpur

1. Shah Latif’s collection of poems is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. Shah Jo Geet b. Shah jo Shairi c. Shah Jo Risalo

1. Shah Latif’s Urs lasts for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. three days b. five days c. seven days

1. Shah latif started writing poems in his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. childhood **b. boyhood** c. adulthood

1. Latif’s song is sung on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**a. tambooro** b. dhol c. murli

1. Shah Latif’s message is the message of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. friendship **b. love** c. peace

1. The Risalo provides proof that Shah Latif knew \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. German and French b. Turkish and Hind **c. Arabic & Persian**

1. Latif’s Urs is held at his shrine every year on 14th \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. Shaban **b. Safar** c. Shawal

**Short Answer Questions**

**Q.1:** Who was Shah Latif? When & where was he born? What did his devotees call him?

**Ans.** **Shah Latif’s Birth & Name Bhitai**

Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai was a noted Sindhi Sufi, scholar, mystic, saint and poet. He was born in 1689 A.D / 14th Safar 1102 A.H in a small village called “Hala Haweli” in Sindh. He was lovingly called “Lal Latif” by his devotees.

**Q.2:** What do you known about the ancestors of Shah Latif? When, why & from where did they come to Sindh?

**Ans**. **Shah Latif’s Ancestral Roots**

Shah Latif’s ancestral roots lay in Hirat, Afghanistan. There are two opinions about his family background which are as under.

1. Some historian say that Shah Latif’s father, Syed Habib Shah, migrated from Matyaru, his ancestral home in Sindh, in order to gain spiritual contact with Bilawal, a local pious man.
2. Others say that his ancestors migrated to Sindh from Hirat, as Sindh was then a center of Muslim culture and Shah Latif’s ancestor liked it very much and decided to settle in Sindh.

**Q.3:** What is “Bhit”? Why is Shah Latif called “Bhitai” or “Saint of Bhit”?

**Ans.** **Meaning of Bhit:**

“Bhit” is a Sindhi word means “Mound of Sand”

**Why is he called “Bhitai” or “Suint of Bhit”**

When Shah Latif felt restlessness in living a normal domestic life so, he left home after the death of his father and went to live on a mound at some distance from his village, there he spent most of his time in prayers, devotion and meditation. After his death he was buried there and called “The Saint of Bhit”.

**Q.4:** What do you know about Shah Latif’s music?

**Ans.** **Shah Latif’s Music**

Shah Latif was not only a saint but also a superb poet and an expert musician. He had a strong aesthetic sense. His skills in this made a great changes and improvement in music of his time. He loved simplicity in music and musical instruments. He did not agree that music should be difficult. So, he made it easy and also invented a musical instrument called “Tambooro”.

**Q.5:** What do you know about poetry of Shah Latif?

**Ans.** **Shah Latif’s Poetry**

Shah Latif was not only a saint and musician but also a poet. He was a poet of the people, so he wrote poetry in the language of common men. One great quality of is poetry, besides its simplicity is its moving music which the listener enjoy, even if he doesn’t understand a word of it.

**Q.6:** What is “Risalo of Shah Latif”? (**OR**) What do you know about the collection of Shah Latif’s poem?

**Ans.** **Risalo of Shah Latif**

Shah Latif’s devotees collected his poetry and this collection came to be called “Risalo of Shah Abdul Latif”. This collection of his poems is so valued & has been translated into many languages.

**Q.7:** What does Shah Latif’s poetry and work tell us about his knowledge and skills?

**Ans.** Shah Latif received little formal education, but the Risalo provides proof that he knew Arabic and Persian well. Various references in “Shah Jo Risalo” indicates that he had in depth knowledge of the Holy Quran and the Hadiths. His poetic collection included the Masnavi of Moulana Jalaluddin Rumi and Shah Karim’s poems.

**Q.8:** What is “Urs”? When is Shah Latif’s urs held? How do his devotees celebrate his urs?

**Ans.** **Shah Latif’s Urs**

“Urs” is the ceremony which are arranged on the death of saints at their shrines.

Shah Latif’s Urs is held at his shrines on 14th Safar.

Thousands of devotees gather at his shrine, offer prayers, and listen to the saint’s songs sung by tambooro. Many learned men read papers that tell about Latif’s life and poetry.

**Q.9:** When did Shah Latif pass away? Who built his shrine?

**Ans.** **Shah Latif’s Death & Remembrance**

Shah Latif passed away in 1752, at the age of 63, on the mound where he had spent a large part of his life. He was buried on the same mound. Later on, a famous ruler of Sindh Ghulam Shah Kalhoro, who was one of his devotees, built a shrine over his grave. The lovely white dome of the shrine represents the purity and dignity of Latif.

**Q.10:** What is the message of Shah Latif’s poetry? What according to him is the aim of life?

**Ans.** **Message of Shah Latif’s Poetry**

Shah Latif had firm belief in all moral values such as, goodness, truth, beauty, peace, love and fraternity. Latif’s message is the message of love. He believed in the brotherhood, and equality of men, and in pleasing God by good deeds and this according to him is the goal of life.

We are all born for love. It is the principle of existence, and its only end.

(**Benjamin Disraeli**)

**Q.11:** Name the places in the text mention in Shah Latif’s poetry. Why do you think these places have been mentioned by him?

**Ans.** The Places in the Text Mention in Shah Latif’s Poetry Istanbul, China, Samarkand, Rome, Kabul, Kandahar, Delhi and Deccan.

**My Opinion**

I think these places are mentioned by him because he had been to those places or because those places were popular at that time.

**Q.12:** How was information about Shah Latif’s early life collected? Why was it collected in this manner?

**Ans.** Information about the life of Bhitai has mostly been collected from oral traditions. It is said that a renowned Pakistani scholar, education a list and writer Mirza Kalich Beg had collected details about the early life of Shah Latif from some of old people living at that time. Those people had heard these facts from their forefathers, and some of them had seen Shah Latif and had even spoken to him.

**Q.13:** When and whom did Shah Latif marry? When did his wife die? Why did he not marry again after his wife’s death?

**Ans.** In 1713, Shah Latif married with Bibi Saidha Begum. His wife died at an early age, before she could have any children.

Shah Latif did not marry again after his wife’s death, because his heart turned more and more towards religion and devotion and he felt restlessness; he found it difficult to live a normal domestic life.

**Q.14:** Why is Shah Latif’s key message in his verses acceptable to everyone?

**Ans.** Shah Latif’s spiritual and mystic poetry carries a message of love, which makes it universal and acceptable to the entire human race.

**Q.15:** How many aspects of Shah Latif’s life have been covered in the text?

**Ans.** **Aspects of Shah Latif’s Life**

There are seven aspects of Shah Latif’s life have been covered in the text which are as under:

1. The first aspect is about his “Back and Family”.
2. The second aspect is about his “Name Bhitai”.
3. The third aspect is about his “Early life and Education”.
4. The fourth aspect his “Youth”.
5. The fifth aspect is about his “Spiritual Growth”.
6. The sixth aspect is about his “Death and Remembrance”.
7. The seventh aspect is about his “Poetry”.

**Q.16:** Why did people become Shah Latif’s followers?

**Ans.** Latif’s love of God grew more and more, to the extent that he found pleasure only in devotion. As a result he spent most of his time in prayers and deep thinking. His spiritual power grew stronger with prayers and devotion, so much so that people began to be attracted towards him. Anyone who came to him was strongly impressed by his gentle ways, and his followers increased day by day.

**Q.17:** Can we put his message into practice in today’s world. If “Yes” how, if “No” why not?

**Ans.** Yes, we can put his message into practice in today’s world. Because his message is the message of love, brotherhood and in pleasing God by good deeds. We can spread love and brotherhood among us and try to please God by our good deeds considering it as our goal of life in today’s world. Today’s world needs love and brotherhood more than ever before.

**Exercise # 5**

Read the text and find the following information.

1. The two things done at the time of “Urs” as mentioned in the text.

**Ans.** **Two Things Done At The Time Of Urs**

**i.** Listen to the saint’s songs sung on the Tambooro.

**ii.** Learned men read papers and tell about Latif’s life and his poetry.

1. Two possible reasons why his ancestors migrated to Sindh.

**Ans.** **Reasons of Shah Latif’s Ancestors Migration**

**i.** Latif’s father, Syed Habib Shah, migrated from Matyaru in Afghanistan to Bhainpur in Sindh, in order to gain spiritual contact with Bilawala local pious man.

**ii.** His ancestors migrated to Sindh from Hirat because at that time Sindh was the centre of Muslim culture. Latif’s ancestors liked it so much that they decided to make it their home.

1. Two other languages that he knew quite well.

**Ans.** He knew

**i.** Arabic and

**ii.** Persian quite well

1. Two main religious sources that he had knowledge about.

**Ans.** He had in-depth knowledge of the following:

**i.** The Holy Quran

**ii.** The Hadiths

1. Two poets whose works were a part of his collection.

**Ans.** Two poet whose works were a part of Latif’s collection are as under:

**i.** Moulana Jalal Uddin Rumi

**ii.** Shah Karim

1. Two skills for which he is known.

**Ans.** Following are the two skills for which he is known:

**i.** Sufi

**ii.** Composing poetry

1. Two places in Afghanistan mentioned in his poetry.

**Ans.** Following are the two places in Afghanistan mentioned in his poetry.

**i.** Kabul

**ii.** Kandahar

1. Two places in India mentioned in his poetry.

**Ans.** Two places in India mentioned in his poetry are:

**i.** Delhi

**ii.** Deccan

1. Two Languages mentioned in which the “Risalo” has been translated:

**Ans. i.** Urdu

**ii.** English