

Words and Expressions

ablutions	– a washing or cleansing of the hands or body; ritual washing	وضو
alias	– also known as; also called	عرف
amulet	– talisman; lucky charm	تعویذ
apologize	– say sorry; ask for forgiveness; express regret	معذرت چاہنا
auspicious	– fortunate; promising well for future; lucky	مبارک۔ خوش قسمت
benevolence	– kindness; magnanimity	مہربانی۔ رحم
blurt	– exclaim; cry; utter	بے اختیار کہہ اٹھنا
bulging	– swelling ; protruding	اُبھری ہوئی
censure	– criticism; disapproval	تقید، سرزنش
community	– area; village; neighbourhood	علاقہ۔ محلہ
compensate	– make up for	تلافی کرنا
console	– comfort; solace	تسلی دینا
conviction	– certainty; belief	یقین
dainty	– delicate; pretty; refined	نازک۔ عمدہ۔ خوبصورت
dazed	– bewildered; stunned; amazed; confused	حیرت زدہ۔ حواس باختہ
deprive	– take away; dispossess	محروم کر دینا
devotee	– believer; follower	عقیدت مند
disciple	– pupil; student	شاگرد
dispatch	– send off; forward	بھیجنا
display	– show; exhibition; ceremony; spectacle	نمائش۔ منظر۔ تقریب
divine	– relating to God; holy	خداوندی۔ خدا سے متعلق
dowry	– wedding gift	جہیز
eligibility	– suitability; worthiness; fitness	اہلیت
embrace	– enfold; hold; hug	گلے لگانا
erstwhile	– former; old	سابق
flicker	– burn or shine unsteadily; glimmer	چراغ کی لو کا جھلملانا
gilded	– golden	سنہری

graciously	— courteously; kindly	مہربانی سے
hag	— an ugly, unpleasant old woman; crone; shrew	بد صورت، بد مزاج بڑھیا
implicit	— complete; absolute; unquestioning	کامل۔ پختہ
inaugurate	— open; initiate; launch	افتتاح کرنا
incredible	— unbelievable; amazing; extraordinary	نا قابل یقین۔ غیر معمولی۔ حیرت ناک
linger	— stay; hang around; remain	ٹھہرنا۔ رک جانا۔ لٹکنا
loudmouthed	— given to loud, irritating or indiscrete talk	منہ پھٹ
match	— spouse; partner	رشتہ
morsel	— a small piece of food; crumb; bite	نوالہ۔ ٹکڑا
muster	— collect; summon	اکٹھا کرنا۔ جمع کرنا
negotiate	— discuss; talk	بات چیت کرنا
oath	— promise; word of honour	حلف۔ قسم
oblivious	— unmindful; unconscious; unaware	بے خبر۔ غافل
offering	— gift; present; donation	نذر۔ نذرانہ
omen	— prophetic sign; foretoken; sign	شگون
outfits	— clothes	کپڑے
palanquin	— a covered seat carried on poles on the shoulders of two or four men	ڈولی
pang	— pain; distress; spasm	درد۔ بھیس۔ ڈکھ
pat	— tap; caress; stroke	تھپکی دینا
pendants	— an ornament that hangs from a piece of jewellery; earrings; necklace; locket	جھمکے۔ ہار۔ لاکٹ
pomp	— grandeur; splendour	دھوم دھام
preliminary	— introductory; initial	ابتدائی
prolonged	— lengthened; extended	طویل۔ لمبی
pungent	— powerful; strong; sharp	تیز
quiver	— tremble; quaver	کانپنا
readiness	— eagerness; keenness; willingness	اشتیاق۔ رضامندی
reprimand	— reprove; reproach; criticize; rebuke	سرزنش کرنا۔ تنقید کرنا
resonant	— resounding; ringing; booming	گوںج دار

scepter	— a staff held by a sovereign as an emblem of authority
seclusion	— solitude; isolation; privacy
sermon	— speech; lecture; address
shy	— coy; bashful; quiet
solitude	— privacy; seclusion
splendour	— glory; grandeur
steady	— constant; unvarying; fixed; stable
stray	— digress; deviate; to err
sturdy	— powerful; robust; strong
temple	— the flat region on either side of the forehead
threshold	— door; doorway; doorstep
thumping	— pounding; beating
turban	— a traditional Muslim head-dress
turquoise	— a blue or greenish blue semiprecious stone
ultimately	— in the end; finally; at last
vow	— promise; pledge
wangle	— obtain; get deviously
whirl of life	— problems of life; routine of life.
wistful	— sad; melancholic; pensive
witness	— look; watch

عصائے شاہی
علیحدگی۔ تنہائی
خطبہ۔ تقریر
شرمیلی
تنہائی
شان و شوکت۔ دھوم دھام
استوار۔ متوازن
بھگنا۔ غلطی کرنا
تو مند۔ مضبوط
کپٹی
دروازہ۔ دہلیز
دھڑکنا
پگڑی
فیروزہ
آخر کار
قسم کھانا۔ عہد کرنا
ہتھیالینا۔ بھول لینا
زندگی کے مسائل
حسرت آمیز۔ ملول
دیکھنا

Multiple Choice Questions

I. Choose the correct synonym.

- Before his marriage, Maulvi Abul used to live in comfort, even **pomp**.
A) splendour B) destitution
C) bitterness D) seclusion
- For his hair, he used **fragrant** oil.
A) rare B) glossy
C) sweet-smelling D) repugnant
- Maulvi Abul had slightly **bulging** eyes.
A) swelling B) big
C) staring D) small

- After his **sermon**, he distributed 40 to 50 rupees among the needy and the poor of the village.
A) ablution B) speech
C) prayer D) charity
- Remember the **Benevolent** Almighty Allah.
A) strong B) kind
C) respected D) lovable

6. I have everything one can desire.
A) wish B) need
C) get D) wonder
7. At night, he consulted his wife.
A) discussed with B) referred to
C) requested D) objected
8. Seeing those dainty feet, Maulvi Abul burst into tears.
A) small B) delicate
C) rough D) bare
9. Had it been someone else, I could easily have wangled ten rupees.
A) saved B) obtained
C) distributed D) spent
10. Maulvi Abul vowed never to use the powdered tobacco that he loved.
A) promised B) tried
C) hated D) wished
11. But Chaudhry Fateh Dad's censure was purely religious.
A) concern B) offering
C) criticism D) gratitude
12. He was very regular in his offering.
A) gift B) proposition
C) advice D) collaboration
13. Conscious of the ever increasing responsibilities of her husband...
A) proud B) negligent
C) aware D) curious
14. A tailoring shop would spring up.
A) start B) rise
C) set up D) shut
15. Maulvi Abul was caught in the whirl of life.
A) routine B) problems
C) pool D) pleasures
16. But his voice remained resonant.
A) resounding B) hushed
C) high-pitched D) softened
17. Sometimes that too quivered.
A) resounded B) trembled
C) shrilled D) paused
18. The Chaudhry had carefully considered the eligibility.
A) reliability B) superiority
C) suitability D) background
19. Ultimately Maulvi Abul's and Zaibunnisa's prayers bore fruit.
A) fortunately B) occasionally
C) initially D) eventually
20. Ultimately Maulvi Abul's and Zaibunnisa's prayers bore fruit.
A) accepted B) succeeded
C) prolonged D) wavered
21. He then begged Maulvi Abul to inaugurate his shop.
A) pardoned B) urged
C) offered D) requested
22. In order not to disappoint his erstwhile disciple, Maulvi Abul took a momentous decision.
A) former B) beloved
C) obedient D) present
23. In order not to disappoint his erstwhile disciple, Maulvi Abul took a momentous decision.
A) mentor B) relative
C) businessman D) pupil
24. Maulvi Abul took a momentous decision.
A) ignoble B) significant
C) hasty D) timely
25. My purchase in front of the entire village, may impress them.
A) inspire B) terrify
C) appease D) convince
26. I will feel as light as a feather.
A) weak B) low
C) relaxed D) calm
27. They lingered to gaze with wistful longing at the colourful display.
A) stayed B) desired
C) stumbled D) leaned
28. They lingered to gaze with wistful longing at the colourful display.
A) understand B) watch
C) overlook D) frown
29. They lingered to gaze with wistful longing at the colourful display.
A) casual B) curious
C) sad D) jubilant
30. They lingered to gaze with wistful longing at the colourful display.
A) curiosity B) innocence
C) yearning D) indifference
31. They lingered to gaze with wistful longing at the colourful display.
A) show B) congregation
C) fabric D) embroidery

32. He almost seemed to be offering it as a gift.
A) tribute B) present
C) ransom D) pay
33. I consider it a good omen.
A) division B) suggestion
C) sign D) expression
34. He heard a familiar voice.
A) similar B) harsh
C) hushed D) acquainted
35. It was dark and usually used for offering special prayers in solitude.
A) humility B) punctuality
C) congregation D) privacy
36. He put a match to a dry twig.
A) root B) match
C) branchlet D) stump
37. To encourage the youth he patted his back.
A) stroked B) punched
C) turned D) struck
38. They looked dazed.
A) stunned B) frustrated
C) flushed D) encouraged
39. They had all clustered around.
A) bent B) gathered
C) scattered D) jumped
40. Their faces immediately lit up with joy.
A) glowed B) dwindled
C) faded D) scowled
41. Gratified and almost dazed, Maulvi Abul went back to his wife.
A) jumbled B) infuriated
C) pleased D) honoured
42. Mehrunnisa was put in seclusion in a separate room till the auspicious day.
A) incredible B) departure
C) fortunate D) wedding
43. Mehrunnisa was put in seclusion in a separate room till the auspicious day.
A) solitude B) ceremony
C) conviction D) prosperity
44. The gay songs that usually accompany wedding ceremonies were not sung.
A) traditional B) sad
C) happy D) cultural
45. They also sang sweet songs of the excitement of union and the pangs of separation.
A) consequences B) occasions
C) pain D) cries
46. Some secretly believed that the Maulvi had a special amulet.
A) talisman B) hidden treasure
C) wedding gift D) profane object
47. In the crowd, there was also a loudmouthed old hag.
A) shrew B) lady
C) relative D) soul
48. But the jewellery? It was incredible!
A) unremarkable B) unbelievable
C) worthless D) horrified
49. "Even the bracelets and the gold nose-ring are hers," she added with conviction.
A) annoyance B) astonishment
C) curiosity D) certainty
50. As two sturdy villagers carried it away, Maulvi Abul walked a few steps with it.
A) frail B) illiterate
C) hired D) strong
51. Oblivious of his surroundings, Maulvi Abul's mind was racing elsewhere.
A) conscious B) unmindful
C) confident D) sick
52. At the same time, he looked at peace.
A) confident B) unarmed
C) calm D) dazed
53. Maulvi Abul had two main sources of inspiration, in which he had implicit faith.
A) dubious B) newfound
C) innocent D) unquestioning
54. Maulvi Abul had two main sources of inspiration.
A) encouragement B) conviction
C) curiosity D) reference
55. He found a crowd assembled to watch the proceedings. (Board 2014)
A) came B) invited
C) awaited D) gathered
56. Maulvi Abdul's children came in quick succession. (Board 2018)
A) speed B) grief
C) time D) series

Answers

1. A	8. B	15. B	22. A	29. C	36. C	43. A	50. D
2. C	9. B	16. A	23. D	30. C	37. A	44. C	51. B
3. A	10. A	17. B	24. B	31. A	38. A	45. C	52. C
4. B	11. C	18. C	25. A	32. B	39. B	46. A	53. D
5. B	12. A	19. D	26. C	33. C	40. A	47. A	54. A
6. A	13. C	20. B	27. A	34. D	41. C	48. B	55. D
7. A	14. A	21. D	28. B	35. D	42. C	49. D	56. D

II. Choose the correct answer.

- Maulvi Abul had slightly _____ eyes.
A) slanting B) bulging
C) drooping D) attractive
- On his fingers Maulvi Abul wore _____ rings with large stones.
A) gold B) silver
C) platinum D) copper
- How much money did Maulvi Abul collect from the devotees?
A) 100 to 150 rupees
B) 150 to 200 rupees
C) 250 to 300 rupees
D) 40 to 50 rupees
- What was the name of Maulvi Abul's first born child?
A) Mehr-un-Nisa B) Zaib-un-Nisa
C) Lutuf-un-Nisa D) Shamsun
- Ch. Fateh Dad was member of the _____.
A) District Council
B) District Board
C) District Bar
D) District Bureau
- Shamim Ahmad was the _____ son of a Hafiz.
A) eldest B) youngest
C) only D) weakest
- Maulvi Abul had saved _____.
A) 33 rupees B) 43 rupees
C) 42 rupees D) 63 rupees
- A few months after Mehr-un-Nisa's marriage, a _____ opened in the village.
A) secondary school
B) middle school
C) primary school
D) higher secondary school
- All those years, Maulvi Abul had _____ sources of inspiration.
A) one B) two
C) three D) four
- Before his marriage, Maulvi Abul used to live in comfort, even _____.
A) in grief B) in misery
C) pomp D) in poverty
- Maulvi Abul's wife would arrange two baskets to store _____.
A) raw sugar
B) bread smeared with ghee
C) sweets for children
D) morsels of home-baked bread
- How much money did Maulvi Abul distribute among the poor and needy of the village?
A) 50 to 60 rupees
B) 60 to 70 rupees
C) 40 to 50 rupees
D) 30 to 40 rupees
- How much did Abul pay for the shoes of his first-born child?
A) two rupees B) one rupee
C) three rupees D) five rupees
- How much did Maulvi Abul pay for Mehrun's suit?
A) 43 rupees B) 44 rupees
C) 42 rupees D) 41 rupees
- Where did Maulvi Abul keep the bonus money?
A) in a tin box B) in a box
C) in a locker D) in a bank
- How often did Ch. Fatehdad present new clothes to Maulvi Abul?
A) twice a year
B) three times a year
C) four times a year
D) once a year

17. After the ceremonies were over, Mehrun was made to sit _____.
 A) in a separate room B) in a dark room
 C) in a palanquin D) on a matted bed
18. What were Maulvi Abul's two sources of inspiration?
 A) Zaib-un-Nisa and Chaudhry Fatehdad
 B) Allah, Almighty and Chaudhry Fatehdad
 C) Mehrunnisa and Shamim Ahmad
 D) Shamim Ahmad and Chaudhry Fatehdad
19. Chaudhry Fatehdad's gift for Mehrun's wedding was a pair of gold pendants wrapped in a _____.
 A) fifty-rupee note
 B) golden kerchief
 C) twenty-rupee note
 D) hundred-rupee note
20. Chaudhry Fatehdad considered the daily gift of meal to Maulvi Abul _____.
 A) an official duty
 B) a part of his daily worship
 C) a social obligation
 D) a part of his charity
21. What was the day when each of the girls brought a small portion of sugar on bread?
 A) Monday B) Tuesday
 C) Thursday D) Friday
22. What kind of treat did Abul promise to give his children?
 A) honey with bread
 B) sugar with bread
 C) milk with bread
 D) jam with bread
23. How old was Shamim Ahmad when he went away to city?
 A) 15 years B) 18 years
 C) 16 years D) 19 years
24. Maulvi Abul inaugurated Shamim Ahmad's shop by reciting verses from the Holy Quran and by _____.
 A) becoming his first customer
 B) blessing his shop
 C) unveiling the colourful display
 D) praying for his success
25. What was Chaudhry Fatehdad's daily gift to Maulvi Abul?
 A) a little raw sugar with bread
 B) a little raw sugar and home-baked bread smeared with ghee
 C) home-baked bread smeared with ghee and a bowl of dal
 D) a basket containing morsels of home-baked bread
26. What was the length of the cloth Shamim Ahmed measured?
 A) six yards B) seven yards
 C) five yards D) eight yards
27. When Mehrun reached the age of _____, Maulvi Abul's prayers became intense and prolonged.
 A) 16 B) 14
 C) 15 D) 18
28. But Chaudhry Fatehdad's censure was _____.
 A) slightly religious B) religious
 C) purely religious D) almost religious
29. Maulvi Abul vowed with Allah as his witness never to use the _____ that he loved.
 A) fragrant oil B) tobacco
 C) comforts D) powdered tobacco
30. How much was Abul asked to pay for the shoes of his youngest child?
 A) eight rupees B) ten rupees
 C) seven rupees D) six rupees
31. How much did Abul pay to the shoemaker to buy shoes?
 A) six rupees
 B) twelve annas
 C) five rupees and twelve annas
 D) one rupee
32. Maulvi Abul selected a piece of _____.
 A) yellow cloth with flowers amidst pink dots
 B) blue cloth with flowers amidst yellow dots
 C) pink cloth with flowers amidst blue dots
 D) pink cloth with flowers amidst yellow dots
33. Women lingered to gaze with _____ at the colourful display.
 A) serious curiosity B) wistful longing
 C) incredulity D) impatience

Answers

1. B	6. C	11. D	16. D	21. C	26. B	31. C
2. B	7. B	12. C	17. C	22. B	27. B	32. D
3. B	8. C	13. B	18. B	23. C	28. C	33. B
4. A	9. B	14. C	19. D	24. A	29. D	
5. B	10. C	15. A	20. B	25. C	30. D	

Questions from the Textbook

- Q.1** What was alias Abul's full name?
Ans. Abul's full name was Maulvi Abul Barkat.
- Q.2** What was Maulvi Abul's turban known as and where did it originally come from?
Ans. Moulvi Abul's turban was known as Mashadi lungi as it originally came from Mashad in Iran.
- Q.3** What did he always carry with him?
Ans. He always carried a walking stick. It was a sort of scepter, decorated with bands of brass and gilt.
- Q.4** Describe Maulvi Abul's appearance. (Board 2008, 17 Group-II)
Ans. Maulvi Abul had slightly bulging eyes. He wore a light brown turban and carried a decorated walking stick. On his fingers, he wore silver rings with large turquoise stones.
- Q.5** How much did the Maulvi collect on Eid?
Ans. On Eid, Maulvi Abul normally collected 150 to 200 rupees from the devotees.
- Q.6** How much was distributed among the needy and the poor?
Ans. Out of the money collected from the devotees, Maulvi Abul distributed 40 to 50 rupees among the needy and the poor of the village.
- Q.7** What was the name of Maulvi Abul's eldest daughter?
Ans. Mehrunnisa was the name of the eldest daughter of Maulvi Abul.
- Q.8** What was the name of the member of the District Board where the Maulvi lived?
Ans. The name of the member of the District Board was Chaudhry Fatehdad.
- Q.9** What was the name of his wife?
Ans. The name of his wife was Zaibunnisa.
- Q.10** Write down the names of Maulvi Abul's daughters.
Ans. The names of Maulvi Abul's daughters are Mehrunnisa, Zabdatunnisa, Shamsun and Umda.

Additional Questions

- Q.11** Why were Maulvi Abul's prayers becoming intense and prolonged?
Ans. Maulvi Abul's prayers were becoming intense and prolonged because he was worried about his eldest daughter's marriage.
- Q.12** What was Chaudhry Fatehdad's daily offering to the Maulvi?
Ans. Chaudhry Fatehdad had a routine of sending Maulvi Abul home-baked bread smeared with ghee and a bowl of dal. This was his daily offering to the Maulvi.
- Q.13** How did the Maulvi inaugurate Shamim Ahmad's shop?
Ans. Maulvi Abul inaugurated Shamim Ahmad's shop by reciting verses from the Holy Quran and by becoming his first customer. He bought a piece of cloth for Mehrun.
- Q.14** What gift did Chaudhry Fatehdad bring for Mehrunnisa's marriage?
Ans. He presented the Maulvi a cotton bag containing a pair of gold pendants wrapped in a hundred-rupee note.

Q.15 What kind of songs did the village girls sing for Mehrun's marriage?

Ans. The village girls sang songs of love and friendship, of flowers and their fragrance, and of the romantic rainy season. They also sang songs of the excitement of union and the pangs of separation.

Q.16 How did Shamim Ahmad celebrate his marriage?

OR

How did Shamim Ahmad come to marry Mehrun?

(Board 2015)

Ans. Shamim Ahmad celebrated his marriage with great pomp and show. There were fireworks and musicians playing happy tunes.

Q.17 What were the two main sources of inspiration for the Maulvi?

(Board 2008)

Ans. The two main sources of inspiration for the Maulvi were Almighty Allah and after Him Chaudhry Fatehdad.

Q.18 What momentous decision did Maulvi Abul take?

Ans. Maulvi Abul agreed to inaugurate Shamim Ahmad's shop by becoming his first customer. He decided to spend all his savings and buy a piece of cloth for Mehrun's dowry.

Q.19 What was the reaction of the old woman on seeing Mehrun's dowry?

Ans. The old woman pointed out that several suits in the dowry had once belonged to a woman who had died young. She also said that some suits and jewellery items had been a part of Zaibun's dowry. However, she had no idea about the gold pendants.

Q.20 Draw a character sketch of Shamim Ahmad.

OR

Who was Shamim Ahmad?

Ans. Shamim Ahmad was a hardworking young man who had gone to city after the death of his father. When he had saved some money, he came back and opened a cloth shop in the village.

Q.21 What was the reaction of the villagers when Fatehdad talked of Mehrun's marriage?

Ans. When Fatehdad talked of Mehrun's marriage, they drew back as if bees had sprung from a bed of roses. They knew that Maulvi Abul was too poor to give his daughter a good dowry.

Q.22 What kind of life did Maulvi Abul live after his marriage?

Ans. Maulvi Abul was caught in the whirl of life after marriage. He had too many children but limited sources of income. It was becoming difficult for him to cope with his financial problems as the days passed.

Punctuation Exercises

1) **Unsolved:**

as she opened it her eyes suddenly became bright with unshed tears just then mehrun walked in then she turned back with a smile almost as if she was thinking i know the secret of abbas readiness to inaugurate shamim ahmad s shop

Solved:

As she opened it, her eyes suddenly became bright with unshed tears. Just then Mehrun walked in. Then she turned back with a smile, almost as if she was thinking, "I know the secret of Abba's readiness to inaugurate Shamim Ahmad's shop!"

2) **Unsolved:**

maulvi abul counted his savings there were 43 rupees he put the money in his pocket stood up slowly and said if somehow mehrun can be married all my worries will disappear i will feel light as a feather at least for some years to come

Solved:

Maulvi Abul counted his savings. There were 43 rupees. He put the money in his pocket, stood up slowly and said: "If somehow Mehrun can be married, all my worries will disappear. I will feel light as a feather, at least for some years to come."

3) **Unsolved:**

how much should i pay maulvi abul asked out of respect shamim ahmad hesitated for a moment rubbed his palms cleared his throat and replied at the rate of six rupees per yard it will be 42 rupees sir

Solved:

"How much should I pay?" Maulvi Abul asked. Out of respect, Shamim Ahmad hesitated for a moment, rubbed his palms, cleared his throat and replied: "At the rate of six rupees per yard, it will be 42 rupees, sir."

4) **Unsolved:**

thank you sir shamim said flushing with happiness you have graciously become my first customer i consider it a good omen that is why i have not offered you any concession today but i am your humble servant sir

Solved:

"Thank you, sir," Shamim said, flushing with happiness. "You have graciously become my first customer." I consider it a good omen. That is why I have not offered you any concession today. But I am your humble servant, sir."

5) **Unsolved:**

dont cry zaibun he said softly he rarely addressed her that way but today was a special day god did listen to our prayers let us bow our heads to him

Solved:

"Don't cry, Zaibun," he said softly. He rarely addressed her that way. But today was a special day. "God did listen to our prayers. Let us bow our heads to Him."

6) **Unsolved:**

wait let me see he went to the door and opened it chaudhry fatehdad was standing there wrapped in a shawl he warmly caught maulvi abuls hand and embraced him congratulations sir at last my efforts proved fruitful he said a low voice

Solved:

"Wait. Let me see." He went to the door and opened it. Chaudhry Fatehdad was standing there, wrapped in a shawl. He warmly caught Maulvi Abul's hand and embraced him. "Congratulations, sir. At last my efforts proved fruitful!" he said in a low voice.

7) **Unsolved:**

shamim is a good boy sir please take a decision without delay who knows what may happen saying that he brought out a cotton bag from under his shawl and handed it to maulvi abul this is humble gift

Solved:

"Shamim is a good boy, sir. Please take a decision without delay. Who knows what may happen?" Saying that, he brought out a cotton bag from under his shawl and handed it to Maulvi Abul. "This is a humble gift."

8) **Unsolved:**

she held his hand and burst into tears look at this house she said sobbing without mehrun doesnt it look like a graveyard

Solved:

She held his hand and burst into tears. "Look at this house," she said, sobbing. "Without Mehrun, doesn't it look like a graveyard?"

9) **Unsolved:**

maulvi abul smiled and consoled her dont be silly zaibun has mehrun taken zabda also with her what about shamsun suddenly he remembered something arifs mother where is zabda he asked in a whisper inside crying she replied

Solved:

Maulvi Abul smiled and consoled her. "Don't be silly, Zaibun. Has Mehrun taken Zabda also with her? What about Shamsun?" Suddenly he remembered something. "Arif's Mother, where is Zabda?" he asked in a whisper. "Inside. Crying," she replied.