

CHAPTER -2

A SNAKE CHARMER'S STORY

2MARK QUESTIONS

1. Who is the narrator of the story?

ANSWER:

Aryanath, also known as Dadaji's grandson, is the narrator of the story.

2. What special skill does Aryanath possess?

ANSWER:

Aryanath can play the been and make snakes dance.

3. How did the snake charmers earn their livelihood after their snake show in a village?

ANSWER:

They earned their livelihood by providing medicines made from plants and receiving money or food grains.

4. What did Aryanath's father teach him as he grew older?

ANSWER:

Aryanath's father taught him how to remove the poisonous teeth (fangs) of snakes and how to close the tube of poison in the snake's mouth.

5. Why did Dadaji mention the tinbox after the snake show?

ANSWER:

The tinbox contained various medicines made from plants, which snake charmers provided to people after their shows.

6. What did Aryanath's father advise him to do with his knowledge about snakes?

ANSWER:

Aryanath's father advised him to share his knowledge with children in towns and cities, helping them recognize and appreciate snakes.

7. Have you ever seen anyone playing a been? Where?

ANSWER:

Yes, I have seen snake charmers playing a been. They are seen in rural areas during festivals.

8. Do you think all snakes are poisonous?

ANSWER:

Not all snakes are poisonous.

9. Have you ever seen animals being used for the entertainment of people? (For example, in a circus, on the road, or in a park) When and where did you see this?

Answer:

Yes, many animals are being used for the entertainment of people. I saw them at circuses, parks and on roadsides.

10. How did people behave with the animals in the show?

Answer: People behaved warmly with animals at the show.

5MARK QUESTIONS

1. What kind of questions came to your mind after seeing that animal show?

ANSWER:

A few questions arose in my mind after seeing the animal show, such as:

- a. Is the animal trained well enough?
- b. How carefully are they handled?
- c. How did they capture the animals from the forest?
- d. Is it so necessary to give stress to the animals to entertain people?

2. Describe the traditional livelihood of snake charmers as mentioned in the story.

ANSWER:

Snake charmers earned their livelihood by moving from village to village, performing snake shows, providing medicines made from plants, and receiving money or food grains from the people.

3. How did snake charmers contribute to the well-being of the people in the villages they visited?

ANSWER:

Snake charmers not only entertained people with snake shows but also provided medicines made from plants for various ailments. This contribution helped the well-being of the villagers.

4. Discuss the significance of snakes in the life of the snake charmer community, as mentioned in the story.

ANSWER:

Snakes were considered an important part of the snake charmer community's life. They were not only a source of livelihood but also treasured, passed down from one generation to another. Snakes were even gifted to daughters when they got married.

5. How did Aryanath's father advise him to continue the family legacy, and what knowledge was emphasized?

ANSWER:

Aryanath's father advised him to form a been party with his cousins for entertainment. He emphasized not wasting the knowledge about snakes and sharing it with people in towns and cities. Recognizing the importance of snakes in the ecosystem was highlighted.

6. Explain the process of removing poisonous teeth (fangs) from snakes, as mentioned in the story.

ANSWER:

Aryanath's father taught him how to remove the poisonous teeth (fangs) of snakes as they grew older. This skill involved a process to ensure the safety of both the snake charmers and the snakes.

7. Discuss the role of the tinbox in the snake charmers' activities.

ANSWER:

The tinbox contained various medicines made from plants that snake charmers provided to people after their shows. It showcased the dual role of snake charmers as entertainers and providers of traditional medicine.

8. How did snake charmers help farmers, as mentioned in the story?

ANSWER:

Snake charmers helped farmers by catching snakes that posed a threat. The snakes, in turn, were considered friends of the farmers as they controlled the rat population in the fields, preventing damage to crops.

9. The government has made a law that no one can catch and keep snakes. What do you think about this law? Give reasons for your answer and write in your own words.

ANSWER:

The government has made a law that no one can catch and keep snakes. I support this law. Even though many animals are made captive by killing their freedom, no human has any right to take another's freedom. To earn a livelihood out of taking an animal's freedom is wrong. I completely support this law of not catching and keeping animals captive.

FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. Aryanath can play the _____. (**been**)
2. The snake charmers are known as _____. (**Kalbeliyas**)
3. Snake charmers moved from village to village, carrying their snakes in _____. (**bamboo baskets**)
4. Dadaji's grandfather, Roshan Nathji, was famous for catching many _____ snakes. (**poisonous**)
5. Snake charmers provided medicines made from _____ to the people. (**plants**)
6. Aryanath's father taught him how to remove the poisonous _____ of snakes. (**teeth (fangs)**)
7. According to Dadaji, in the past, people watched snake charmers for _____. (**Entertainment**)
8. The government law prohibited catching and keeping _____. (**wild animals**)

9. Dadaji advised Aryanath to form a been party with his cousins for _____ . **(Entertainment)**

10. Snakes are considered friends of the farmers as they control the _____ population in the fields. **(rat)**

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. What is Aryanath's special skill?

- a) Dancing
- b) Playing the been
- c) Singing
- d) Juggling

Answer: b) Playing the been

2. What are snake charmers known as in the story?

- a) Kalashas
- b) Kalbeliyas
- c) Kumbharas
- d) Kshatriyas

Answer: b) Kalbeliyas

3. What did the snake charmers carry their snakes in when moving from village to village?

- a) Cloth bags
- b) Wooden boxes
- c) Bamboo baskets
- d) Iron cages

Answer: c) Bamboo baskets

4. What did snake charmers provide to people after their shows?

- a) Sweets
- b) Toys
- c) Medicines made from plants
- d) Money

Answer: c) Medicines made from plants

5. What did Aryanath's father teach him as he grew older?

- a) Cooking
- b) Fishing
- c) Removing poisonous teeth of snakes
- d) Carpentry

Answer: c) Removing poisonous teeth of snakes

6. What was present in the tinbox of the snake charmers after their shows?

- a) Snacks
- b) Money
- c) Medicines made from plants
- d) Jewelry

Answer: c) Medicines made from plants

7. Why did people gather around the snake charmers in villages?

- a) To buy snakes
- b) To watch snake charmers dance
- c) To see the medicines
- d) To ask for money

Answer: b) To watch snake charmers dance

8. What did the government law prohibit regarding wild animals?

- a) Selling them
- b) Catching and keeping them
- c) Domesticating them
- d) Using them for agriculture

Answer: b) Catching and keeping them

9. What did Dadaji advise Aryanath to do with his skill in playing the been?

- a) Keep it a secret
- b) Form a been party for entertainment
- c) Sell it to the highest bidder
- d) Stop playing the been

Answer: b) Form a been party for entertainment

10. Why are snakes considered friends of the farmers according to the story?

- a) Snakes help with farming chores
- b) Snakes are good pets for farmers
- c) Snakes control the rat population in fields
- d) Farmers enjoy watching snakes

Answer: c) Snakes control the rat population in fields

SUMMARY

Aryanath unfolds a captivating tale of his family's traditional occupation as Kalbeliya snake charmers. Aryanath boasts a unique skill—he can play the been, a talent passed down through generations in his family. His grandfather, Roshan Nathji, was renowned for catching poisonous snakes, and Aryanath reminisces about the days when they traveled from village to village with snakes in bamboo baskets.

The snake charmers entertained villagers with captivating shows, making snakes dance to the enchanting tunes of the been. Beyond the spectacle, they offered medicinal remedies made from plants, stored in a tinbox, thus providing a valuable service to the communities they visited. Aryanath's father passed on the intricate knowledge of handling snakes, teaching him the delicate art of removing poisonous teeth.

However, changing times and government laws have posed challenges to the traditional livelihood of snake charmers. Restrictions on catching wild animals have impacted their way of life, prompting Dadaji to express concern about the future. Despite these challenges, Aryanath's father encourages him to adapt, suggesting the formation of a been party for entertainment while sharing their snake-related knowledge with urban communities.

Snakes are portrayed as treasured creatures passed down through generations, and the story advocates for understanding and appreciation of these reptiles. Aryanath is tasked with carrying forward this legacy, contributing to the conservation of traditional knowledge while adapting to a changing world.