

Chapter 3

1. The shepherd hadn't been to school because

(i) he was very poor.

(ii) there were very few schools in those days.

(iii) he wasn't interested in studies.

Choose the right answer.

Ans: The shepherd did not go to school because there were very few schools in those days.

2. Who visited the shepherd one day, and why?

Ans: The king disguised as a shepherd and riding on a mule visited the shepherd one day. Although poor and uneducated the shepherd was very wise and understood people's sorrows and troubles and helped them face them with courage and common sense. The king heard about him and therefore wanted to meet the shepherd who had become so famous for his wisdom and friendly nature among the common people.

3. Why did the other governors grow jealous of the shepherd?

Ans: The other governors grew jealous of the shepherd because although he rose to power and dignity, he remained as humble as ever. People loved and honoured him for his wisdom, sympathy and goodness and his fame as a fair and wise governor soon spread throughout the country.

4. Why was the new governor called to the palace?

Ans: The other jealous governors told the king that the new governor was very dishonest and kept for himself a part of the money that he collected as tax from the people. He stored it in an iron chest which he carried with him all the time. When the king grew tired of their stories and could not ignore them any longer and also noticed that the governor did carry with him the iron chest at all times he summoned him to the palace to find out if what they said was true.

5. Why was everyone delighted to see the iron chest on the camel's back?

Ans: Everyone was delighted to see the iron chest fastened securely behind him on the camel's back because the councilors had warned the king that he was dishonest and stored all the treasures that he collected in the iron chest. They were convinced that now that he had brought the iron chest with him it would be opened and his dishonesty would be revealed to the king.

6. (i) What did the iron chest contain?

(ii) Why did the shepherd always carry it?

(iii) Is it an example of the shepherd's humility or wisdom or both?

Ans:

(i) The iron chest did not contain gold, silver or jewels but an old blanket.

(ii) The shepherd carried the blanket with him always because it was his oldest friend and would protect him if at any time his Majesty decided to take away his new clothes.

(iii) It is an example of the shepherd's humility and wisdom as even after he was appointed as the governor, he still remained a humble and a wise man.

7. How did the king reward the new governor?

Ans: The king made him the governor of a much bigger district that very day.