

Chapter 5

1. Why did Swami Haridas say Tansen was 'talented'?

Ans: Swami Haridas said that Tansen was talented because on seeing Swami and his disciples resting in the forest he hid behind a tree and roared like a tiger and managed to frighten his disciples.

2. Why did Akbar ask Tansen to join his court?

Ans: Akbar asked Tansen to join his court because he was impressed with his singing.

3. How do we know that Akbar was fond of Tansen? Give two reasons.

Ans: Akbar would call upon Tansen to sing at any time during the day or night. At times he would just walk into Tansen's house to hear him practice and gave him many presents. These reasons tell us that Akbar was fond of Tansen.

4. What did the other courtiers feel about Tansen?

Ans: Some of the other courtiers were jealous of Tansen because Akbar was fond of him and often gave him gifts. They felt that they would never be able to rest till Tansen was ruined.

5. (i) What happens if Raga Deepak is sung properly?

(ii) Why did Tansen's enemies want him to sing the Raga?

Ans: (i) If Raga Deepak is sung properly, it makes the air so hot that the singer is burnt to ashes.

(ii) Tansen's enemies wanted him to sing the Raga because they knew he was a good singer. If he sang it well, he would die as he would be burnt to ashes and in this way they would be able to get rid of him.

6. Why did Tansen agree to sing Raga Deepak?

Ans: Tansen agreed to sing Raga Deepak because he could not disobey the king who was convinced that he was a great singer and could sing anything.

7. (i) What steps did he take to save himself?**(ii) Did his plan work? How?**

Ans: (i) Tansen was unhappy because he knew that the heat given off by singing the Raga Deepak would burn him to ashes. He then had an idea to save himself. If someone sang the Raga Megh at the same time, properly, it would bring rain. He would teach his daughter, Saraswati, and her friend, Rupvati to do it. They practiced night and day for two weeks. Tansen told them that they must wait till the lamps started burning, and only then start singing.

(ii) Yes, his plan worked. On the appointed day as Tansen began to sing Raga Deepak the air became warm and the people in the audience were bathed in perspiration. The leaves on the trees dried up and fell to the ground, birds fell dead, and the water in the rivers began to boil. At once Saraswati and Rupvati began to sing Raga Megh. The sky clouded over and the rain came down and saved Tansen.