

Chapter 2

1. Why did the farmer bring a baby mongoose into the house?

Ans: The farmer brought a baby mongoose into his house because they needed a pet so that their son had a companion when he grew up. The baby mongoose would be a friend to their son in the future.

2. Why didn't the farmer's wife want to leave the baby alone with the mongoose?

Ans: The farmer's wife was afraid of the mongoose harming her child and so she didn't want to leave her baby alone with the mongoose.

3. What was the farmer's comment on his wife's fears?

Ans: The farmer told his wife that she needn't be afraid as the mongoose was a friendly animal. It was as sweet as their baby and they were the best of friends.

4. Why did the farmer's wife strike the mongoose with her basket?

Ans: The wife saw the mongoose face and paws smeared with blood and concluded that it must have killed the baby. She cried 'blood' and continued screaming hysterically and accusing the wicked animal of having killed her baby. She was blind with rage and with all her strength she brought down the heavy basket full of groceries on the blood smeared mongoose.

5. Did she repent her hasty action? How does she show her repentance?

Ans: Yes, she repented her hasty and rash action, she realized that the mongoose had actually saved her child by killing the black snake. She rushed outside looking for the mongoose. She repented by saying that the mongoose had saved her child and

look what she had done to repay it. She touched the mongoose that lay dead and still unaware of her sobbing. She stared long at the dead mongoose.

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