



1. The shepherd had not 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: (ii) There were very few schools in those days.

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

Ans: The shepherd soon became famous for his wisdom and friendly nature. The king of Iran heard about him and visited him. He was riding a mule and dressed like a shepherd.

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

Ans: The common shepherd was appointed the governor of a small district. He was loved and honoured by the people. His fame spread far and wide. So the governors of other provinces grew jealous of him.

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

Ans: The jealous governors poisoned the king's ears against the new shepherd-governor. They reported that the new governor was dishonest, and he always carried his ill-gotten treasure in an iron chest. So the king called him to the palace to see that treasure.

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

Ans: Those who were present in the palace, thought that the iron-box contained valuables. If their report proved true, the king would dismiss the shepherd. So they were delighted. They waited anxiously to see the contents of the box.

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 contained only an old blanket.

(ii) The shepherd always carried his blanket in the box because it was his oldest and time-tested friend. It would protect him in case the king took away his post and power.

(iii) Yes, it is an example of the shepherd's humility as well as wisdom.

7. How did the king reward the new governor?

Ans: The king was highly pleased with the new governor's humility and honesty. He rewarded him with a promotion. He made him the governor of a much bigger province the same day.

I.SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. What were the notable qualities of the shepherd?

Ans: The shepherd was poor and uneducated. But he was wise and friendly. He lived in a cave. '

2. What led the king of Iran to the cave of the shepherd?

Ans: The stories of the wisdom and friendly nature of the shepherd led the king of Iran to his cave.

3. What impressed the king when he spent a night in the cave?

Ans: The king was greatly impressed by the shepherd's hospitality and wise talks.

4. The king rewarded the shepherd twice. How and why?

Ans: The king was greatly pleased with the shepherd's gentleness and intelligence. So he appointed him the governor of a small district. Later on, the king rewarded the shepherd for his honesty, humility and wisdom. He made the shepherd the governor of a much bigger district.

5. Why did the shepherd always carry his old blanket with him?

Ans: The old blanket was the shepherd's oldest and the best friend. It could protect him when the king wished to take away his position, power and cloaks.

6. What is the moral/message of the story?

Ans: The moral of the story is that honesty, humility and wisdom are great virtues. These are recognised and rewarded by everybody sooner or later.

II. LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Give a character sketch of the shepherd. What qualities pleased the king?

Ans: The poor shepherd lived in a village in Iran. He was illiterate. But he was wise, and noble. He helped the people in trouble. He solved their problems with courage and common sense. The king was impressed by the shepherd's hospitality and gentleness. He appointed the humble shepherd the governor of a district. The new governor always carried an iron-box. The jealous governors thought that there was gold inside the chest. The king examined the box and found only an old blanket in it.

2. How did the other governors try to humiliate the new governor (the shepherd)?

Ans: The shepherd was poor but humble, honest and hospitable. The king was pleased with the shepherd's goodness and wisdom. His wisdom, common sense and above all, honesty were his real wealth. But wherever he went, he carried with him an iron chest. The envious governors poisoned the king's ears against him. The king agreed to see for himself the jewels in the iron-box. But he found only an old and ordinary blanket. That was his only treasure. This incident enhanced the shepherd's dignity. The other governors felt embarrassed.

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