



Comprehension Check (Page 83)

1. "For a moment James wondered if he had done his sums right."

Why was James doubtful about his sums and calculations?

Answer: James reached his hotel at 1 pm. He looked up from his window and saw the star-studded sky. He couldn't believe that any untoward event could happen on such a peaceful night. He became doubtful about his calculations.

2. What did the scientists at the conference say about James's sums?

Answer: The scientists attending the conference came to the conclusion that James Forsyth's calculations were correct. The new comet would collide with the earth.

3. Immediate action was needed, the scientists decided. Give one example each of 'defensive' and 'offensive' action mentioned in the text.

Answer: The approaching comet needed immediate action. The scientists had two options. The defensive measure was that the people should live in bunkers. The offensive action was to do something to deflect the comet from its path. This could be done by exploding a nuclear payload near the comet.

4. "I am not buying any Christmas presents till December 15". What did Sir John mean by that?

Answer: Sir John was not quite sure about the safety of the earth. So he deferred the buying of Christmas presents till December 15. By that time the situation was sure to become clear.

Comprehension Check (Page 87)

1. What is Duttada expected to do on his return from London?

Answer: Duttada on the return was expected to take part in a Shanti yajna to pacify evil spirit behind the comet.

2. What is his reaction to the proposal?

Answer: Duttada was very angry. He called it just a silly superstition to think that comets have ill-effects.

3. (i) What does "Project Light Brigade" refer to?

(ii) What does Sir John say about the Project in his letter to Duttada in October?

Answer: (i) "Project Light Brigade" refers to the plan to divert the comet from its path. The plan was to launch a spacecraft and explode the nuclear device near the comet. (ii) The charge of the light Brigade has begun. Let us hope for the best.

4. Did Sir John Buy Christmas presents on December 15? How did Duttada get to know about it?

Answer: Duttada got to know from the letter that Sir John had bought Christmas presents on Dec 15. It indicated that the Project Light Brigade was successful.

5. Why according to Indrani Debi, had the comet not been disastrous? Do you agree with her?

Answer: Indrani Debi thought that Comet Dutta could not harm the

earth because of the Yajna performed at their house. I don't agree with this.

6. Is Duttada's general outlook

(i) rational?

(ii) moral?

(iii) traditional?

Choose the right word. Say why you think it right.

Answer: Duttada's general outlook is rational because he had a scientific temper. He went by reason, not by custom or morality.

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