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THE RAJA'S DREAM

A. WARMER

Have you ever had a funny strange dream? Share it with your classmates. Tell them if it had any connection with reality.

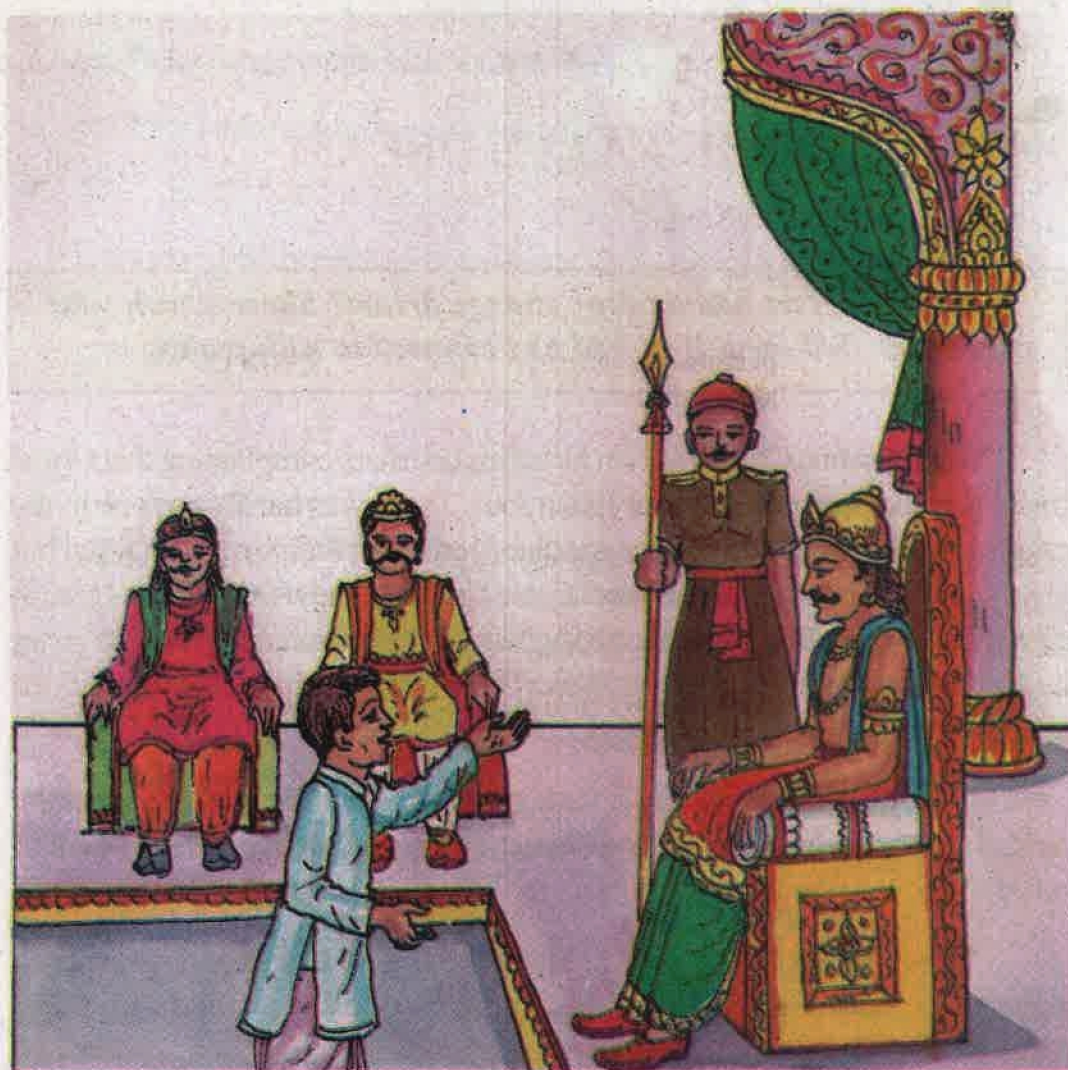
Raja Krishna Chandra often heard his courtiers complaining that Gopal loved to make everyone appear like a fool. There was hardly anyone in the court who had not at one time or another tried to get their backs at Gopal but always ended up looking like utter idiots. The Raja knew that this was true. It often rankled him that without uttering a single objectionable word the jester had made him feel silly more than once. So one day Krishna Chandra decided to amuse himself by baiting Gopal.

“Ah, Gopal, I have had a strange dream”, announced the Raja the next day as soon as he saw Gopal in the court. And everyone fell silent in order to listen to the king’s dream.

“I dreamt Gopal, that you and I were going for a walk and we reached a place where there were two pools. One of the pools was filled with *kheer* made of rich thick milk and the other full of horribly smelly dung. Suddenly, I fell into the milky pool and you into rotting muck.”

On hearing this, the courtiers burst out laughing. They obviously relished the thought of the jester covered from head to toe in muck.

Gopal stood unruffled, waiting for everyone to finish laughing. And then surprised everyone by telling the king with great humility that he had exactly the same dream.



The king looked questioningly at Gopal and asked, “You mean everything happened in your dream just the way they happened in mine?”

“Yes, Maharaj”, replied Gopal, “only your dream finished earlier. My dream continued a little longer. I saw both of us coming out of the pool. You covered in *kheer* and I covered in muck and then I saw that you were licking me and I was licking you in order to clean each other.”

The courtiers almost choked when they heard this. But unfortunately for everyone, the king was in a good mood and did not mind his legs being pulled a little. In fact he had a good laugh at Gopal's wit.

(Adapted from **“Gopal Bhand, the Jester from Bengal”** by Rupa Gupta, Publication Division, 1994, Reprint 2006)

GLOSSARY AND NOTES

courtiers(n):	persons who attend a kings/sovereign's court	दरबारीगण
hardly (adv):	scarcely	मुश्किल से, कठिनाई से
get a person's back (idiom):	annoy a person	किसी की चुटकी लेना
rankle (v):	cause persistent annoyance or resentment	क्रोधित करना, खीजना
objectionable (adj):	unpleasant, offensive	आपत्तिजनक, गलत
jester (n):	professional clown at a medieval court	मसखरा
silly(adj):	foolish	मूर्ख, बेवकूफ
amuse(v):	cause to laugh or smile, entertain	हँसाना, मनोरंजन करना, मसखरी करना
baiting (part):	trying deliberately to make somebody angry by making cruel or insulting remarks	किसी का मजाक उड़ाना या अपमानित करना
pools(n):	small areas of still water	तालाब
dung(n):	excrement of animals	गोबर
rotting(part):	decaying	सड़ा हुआ, गला हुआ
muck(n):	waste matter from animals	मल-मूत्र
unruffled (adj):	calm	शांत, अविचलित
humility (n) (v):	humbleness, meekness	विनम्रता
licking(n):	passing the tongue over	चाटना

in order to (idiom):	with the purpose of doing	किसी कार्य को करने के क्रम में, करने के उद्देश्य से
choked (adj):	became speechless	अवाक, चुप हो गए
did not mind(v):	did not care	बुरा नहीं माना
to pull somebody's leg (idiom): to play a joke on somebody, usually by making them believe something that is not true		किसी की खिंचाई कराना, मजाक उड़ाना
wit (n): intellect, intelligence (ability to respond too quickly and wisely)		चतुराई, बुद्धिमत्ता

A. LET'S COMPREHEND

B.1. THINK AND TELL

B.1.1. Answer the following questions orally:

1. What complaint did the courtiers make to Raja Krishna Chandra?
2. How did Krishna Chandra decide to amuse himself?
3. What did Raja tell Gopal?
4. What were the two pools filled with in Raja's dream?
5. In which pool did Gopal fall?
6. Whose dream finished earlier?
7. Who was licking whom in Gopal's dream?

B.2. THINK AND WRITE

B.2.1. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements:

1. Gopal was a great fool.
2. Raja actually had a strange dream.
3. Raja fell in the pool filled with milk.
4. The courtiers mocked at Gopal on hearing Raja's dream.
5. Raja punished the courtiers for laughing at him.

B.2.2. Answer the following questions briefly:

1. What did Gopal love doing?
2. What did the king think on hearing the courtiers complaint?
3. What did the pool look like in which the king fell ?

B.2.3. Answer each of the following questions in about 70 words:

1. What happened to the people who tried to get their backs at Gopal?
2. What was the king's dream? Describe.
3. What did Gopal say on hearing the king's dream?
4. Sketch the character of Gopal, the jester.
5. Can you guess the King's feeling at Gopal's reply? What would you do if someone replied you in that manner?

C. WORD STUDY**C.1. Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with the words given below:**

clean, dreamt, longer, courtiers, jester, dung

1. Gopal was a _____ in the Raja's court.
2. Raja _____ that Gopal fell into the pool of horribly smelly _____.
3. On hearing Raja's dream, the _____ burst out laughing.
4. Gopal had a _____ dream.
5. Gopal and the king were licking each other in order to _____ themselves.

C.2. Find out from the story the words which are opposites (antonyms) of the words given below:

appreciate, hated, never, thin, weep, began, pushed

C.3. Match the words in column A with their meanings in column B:

A	B
jester	enjoyed
dung	unluckily
kheer	comic character in a medieval court
unfortunately	quality of being humble
humility	entertain
relished	animal waste
amuse	a pudding made of rice, sugar and milk

D. GRAMMAR

D.1. Determiners

Look at the following sentence:

The king was in a good mood and did not mind his legs being pulled a little.

Note the underlined words in the given sentence. Here, the word 'the' before 'king' refers to a particular king, i.e., Raja Krishna Chandra. Similarly, the word 'his' before 'legs' refers to the legs of that very king.

Words like a/an, the, this, that, some etc. are called Determiners and they are used before a noun or a noun phrase to define or limit its meaning. In a noun phrase, only one determiner is permitted. There are many determiners in English. Here is a list of some of them:

Articles	a, an, the
Possessive pronouns	my, his, your, her, their, our, its
Quantifiers	some, many etc.
Interrogatives	what, which etc.
Distributives	each, every
Demonstratives	this, that etc.

D.1. 1. Circle determiners in the story 'The Raja's Dream'.

D.1.2. Now circle determiners in the following sentences:

1. I don't know where I left my shoes.
2. I am not free this afternoon.
3. Can I borrow your English book for a minute?
4. When is your birthday?
5. My father has invited his friends to my birthday party.
6. This room is bigger than that room.
7. The man who is standing at the gate is my uncle.
8. I'm busy these days.
9. I need some water.

D.1.3. Use of 'each' and 'every'

Look at the following sentences:

Each boy is intelligent (individually)

Every boy is intelligent (all)

We use 'each' and 'every' before singular countable nouns. We use 'each' before a singular countable noun when we talk about two or more people or things separately as individuals. We use 'every' when we talk about three or more people or things together as a group; e.g.,

Each boy and girl was given a prize.

Each of the girls was allowed to speak for two minutes.

Every boy was present in the class. = All boys were present in the class.

D.1.4. Make two sentences with "each" and "every"

D.1.5. Pick out determiners in the following passage:

A little boy saw pictures of the most wanted criminals at the police station. Pointing at one picture he asked a policeman there, "Is he really a wanted criminal?"

"Yes," said the policeman. Looking puzzled, the little boy remarked, "Then why didn't you keep him when you took his picture?"

D. 2. Punctuation Marks

We use a variety of punctuation marks, such as full stop/period, comma, question mark, brackets, etc. in our writing to separate sentences, phrases, etc., and to clarify their meaning.

Apostrophe (')

(i) An **apostrophe** is used:

(a) to form **contractions** by showing the numbers or letters that have

been left out; e.g., '88 = 1988, I am = I'm, we are = we're, he will = he'll, they would = they'd, do not = don't, I have = I've.

(b) to form the **possessive** of a noun.

Add 's to a single noun or name: uncle's shop, Ashu's friend, cat's tail, Anu's car.

Add 's to a singular noun that ends in -s: actress's role; princess's friend; rhinoceros's skin.

Add 's to other plural nouns: children's toys; women's shoes; men's shirts.

Add 's to a person's office or shop: I'll buy the medicine at the chemist's. / I'll be visiting Anil's.

Add 's only after the second name: Jack and Jill's pail, Aslam and Anuj's school.

(c) To form the plural of abbreviations: many Dr.'s, many C.M.'s, many Ph.D.'s.

(ii) An apostrophe is placed at the end of the word when the word is plural and ends in s: students' bags, books' covers.

(iii) For the plural of a number or letter: your l's, your c's, your 5's are too big.

Colon (:) :

(i) A **colon** is used before a **list** and usually after 'as follows' or 'following items' etc.'

Example: This box contains the following items: bandages, plasters, lotion, medicines and a pair of scissors.

(ii) It is used to separate the hour from the minutes when telling time.

Example: 10:45 A.M., 10:45 P.M.

- (iii) It is used to introduce quoted material.

Example: The Headmaster of our school often used to tell us this quotation:
'Writing makes a man perfect.'

A semicolon is used:

- (i) To join two sentences, independent clauses or a series of items which are closely connected in meaning.

Example: He gives up smoking; obviously, he fears contracting one of the smoking-related diseases.

- (ii) To join two complete sentences into a single written sentence when the two sentences are too closely related to be separately by a full stop and there is no connecting word which would require a comma such as 'and' or 'but'.

Example: He had no money; he felt helpless.

- (iii) To join two independent clauses when the second clause restates the first or when the two clauses are of equal emphasis.

Example: Road construction in Tarauni has hindered travel around village; streets have become covered with bulldozers, trucks, cement, etc.

- (iv) To join two complete sentences into a single written sentence where the second sentence begins with a conjunctive adverb such as 'however', 'nevertheless', 'accordingly', 'consequently', or 'instead'.

Example: I wanted to make my speech short; however, there was so much to cover.

- (v) To separate items in a list when one or more of those items contains a comma.

Example: The speakers included: Radha Mohan Meena, the Commissioner; Nasiruddin Khan, the Education Officer; and Ajay Chaudhary, the Principal.

Hyphen (-)

A **hyphen** is used:

(i) to join two words or more to form **compound words**.

Example: good-looking, pro-Indian, forty-one, daughter-in-law.

(ii) It is used for periods of time when you might otherwise use *to*.

Example: The years 2009–2011, September–December

(iii) to link two connected words.

Example: the Patna-Delhi train

(iii) to add emphasis or make it dramatic. Example: *He said that he would go - and he did.*

Dash (–)

(i) A **dash** is sometimes used instead of a **colon** or a **semi-colon**.

Example: “Quick! Go now – the police are coming for you!”

(ii) A dash is used in pairs to separate a strong interruption from the rest of the sentence (a strong interruption, as opposed to a weak interruption, is one which forcefully disrupts the flow of the sentence and, as such, it usually contains a verb rather simply being a phrase).

Example: All nations’ desire economic growth—some even achieve it— but it is easier said than done.

(iii) When **dashes** are used in a sentence, **commas** are not used to separate interrupting phrases.

Example: She looked at the dresses – a few of them – deciding on the one she should buy. (**NOT:** She looked at the dresses, – a few of them, – deciding on the one she should buy.)

D.2.1. Add what you think are appropriate punctuation marks to the sentences below:

1. Our neighbours dog likes to chew bones
2. Anshus sister is a doctor in Apollo Hospital
3. Last week we read The Catbird Seat a short story by James Thurber
4. Our three children Anu Anil and Aniket like playing cricket
5. In three weeks time well have to begin school again
6. Doesnt she know that we dont drink coffee
7. Its important that the puppy learns to find its way home
8. She did not hear her childrens cries
9. My friend's name has two As
10. The man whose face was white said that he had spent his two weeks vacation in Sikkim
11. No the taxi driver said politely I cannot take you to the airport in fifteen minutes
12. Anwesha is trying hard in school this semester her father said
13. When did Roosevelt say We have nothing to fear but fear itself
14. There was only one thing to do study till dawn
15. The following are the primary colours red blue and yellow.

16. We reached home at 1015 AM
17. We had a great time in Delhi the kids really enjoyed it
18. Some people work best in the mornings others do better in the evenings
19. The girls father sat in a corner
20. Patna is the capital of Bihar

E. LET'S TALK

Work in groups and discuss the following:

"It's not right to mock at others."

F. COMPOSITION

Write a paragraph on **either** of the following topics:

1. Pleasures of having fun at others.
2. There is no life without humour.

G. TRANSLATION

Write a summary of the lesson and then translate it into Hindi /Urdu.

H. ACTIVITY

1. Read some stories related to Birbal's wit. Select two stories which amuse you the most. Give reasons why you liked them.
2. Narrate to your class an incident in which one of your neighbours befuddled another neighbour.

