Mohith Mohan: NCERT Solution In the Kingdom of Fools

[2:22 PM, 8/13/2024] Mohith Mohan: Q1. Why were the people of the kingdom confused when they saw the dead bodies of the king and his minister?

Ans. The people of the kingdom were confused as to how their king and the minister were dead instead of the Guru and the disciple. The people were not able to see through the plan which was executed by the Guru against their king and minister.

Q2. When does the disciple remember the words of his Guru?

Ans. When the Guru advised the disciple to leave the kingdom of fools, the disciple overlooked his advice. Later, when the king decided that the disciple was the suitable person for execution, he remembered the words of the Guru.

Q3. How was the kingdom of fools different from any other place?

Ans. The kingdom of fools was a different place altogether. Day was regarded as night and night as day. Even the animals were awake at night, not just people. One Duddu could buy anything and everything.

Q4. Why did the Guru want that he and his disciple should die first?

Ans. The Guru was trying to befool the King. He said that the first person to die at the new stake would be reborn as a King and the second to die, would be reborn as a Minister of the Kingdom. This is the reason why the Guru and his disciple showed eagerness to die first.

Q5. On what conditions did the Guru and his disciple agree to rule that kingdom?

Ans. The Guru and the disciple stated that they would be free to alter all the outdated and stupid laws. Thus, day was regarded as a typical working day and night was considered to be night. The prices of all items in the market were adjusted in accordance with the material’s value.

Q6. Why did the Guru not want to stay in the Kingdom of fools?

Ans. The people of the Kingdom of Fools were foolish, so the Guru did not want to stay there. He was unsure of them and worried that they would hurt him.

Q7. Why does the disciple not want to leave the Kingdom of the fools?

Ans. The disciple did not want to leave the area because there was a sale of inexpensive food and other goods, everything was readily available, and life appeared to be extremely easy and simple.

Q8. Why did the king decide to postpone the execution of the Guru and his disciple?

Ans. The King was tricked by the Guru. He informed him that those who were currently dying would eventually become the king and minister. The gullible king delayed their execution because he believed the Guru’s advice.

Q9. What was so strange about the Kingdom of fools?

Ans. The peculiar thing about the Kingdom of Fools was that not only were people forced to sleep during the day, but also animals. Also, everything in this kingdom cost a duddu.

Q10. Who is the real culprit according to the king? Why does he escape from the punishment?

Ans. The real offender was the wealthy merchant. Everything he possessed came from his criminal father. He was too frail to be firmly staked in the ground. The merchant escaped punishment when the concerned king mistakenly began looking for a fat man to fit the stake.

Q11. What advice did the Guru give to the disciple before going out of the city?

Ans. The Guru warned his pupil that remaining in a Kingdom of fools was risky. There was simply reckless, unexpected behaviour and no justice. He predicted that the kingdom would not last for very long.

Q12. What is the Guru’s wisdom? When does the disciple realize this?

Ans. The guru’s words of wisdom were that it was the city of fools. He advised the disciple to leave the city because he would not know what they would do next as foolish people can never be predicted. The disciple remembers this when he was going to be executed.

Q13. Why did the king want to punish the merchant?

Ans. The King wanted to punish the merchant because a thief had died as the merchant’s house wall collapsed on him. The king told the merchant that he would be pun…

[2:27 PM, 8/13/2024] Mohith Mohan: Question 1.

Why do the courtiers call the prince ‘the Happy Prince’? Is he really happy? What does he see all around him?

Answer:

He was a prince when he was alive. Being a prince he never knew sorrow and suffering. So, the courtiers called him ‘the happy prince’. But he was not happy in real sense as his heart could feel the misery of needy people. He saw the miserable conditions of people around him.

Question 2.

Why does the Happy Prince send a ruby for the seamstress? What does the swallow do in the seamstress’ house?

Answer:

The seamstress was tired due to overwork. She was so poor that she could not buy oranges for her little sick son. Her son was thirsty. The Happy Prince saw the poor lady and her son. He felt pity for them. So, he sent a ruby for her. The swallow came to the poor woman’s house and laid the ruby on the table beside her. The bird fanned the boy’s forehead with wings and flew back to the Happy Prince.

[2:31 PM, 8/13/2024] Mohith Mohan: 1. Describe the statue of the Happy Prince.

Answer: The statue of the Happy Prince stood on a tall pillar. He was covered with gold. He had sapphires for his eyes. He had a large ruby on the hilt of his sword

2. What made the statue of the Happy Prince cry?

Answer: The statue of the Happy Prince w was on a high pillar, He could see the sorrows and misery of people. He saw a seamstress. Her son was ill. But she had nothing to give her except the river water. This made the Happy Prince cry.

3. Why was the statue called the Happy Prince?

Answer: This was the statue of a Prince. When he was alive he lived in a palace. He did not know what tears. There were was no sorrow in his life. He was always happy He lived and died as a Happy Prince. So his statue was called the Happy Prince.

4. Why did the Happy Prince request the swallow to stay with him for the night?

Answer: The Happy Prince was very kind. He saw that the poor seamstress was very sad. Her son was ill. She had nothing to give him except the river water. The Happy Prince wanted to help her. He wanted to send her a ruby. But he could not move. So he requested the swallow to stay with him for the night.

5. How did the swallow give comfort to the son of the seamstress?

Answer: The swallow came to the house of the seamstress. He found that her son was suffering from a fever. He took pity on him. He fanned the boy with his wings. The son felt comfort. He fell asleep.

6. What was the last wish of the swallow?

Answer: The swallow knew that her end had come. He flew on to the shoulder of the Happy Prince and said, “wish to kiss your hand.” The Happy Prince asked him to kiss him on the lips. He kissed on his lips and then died.

7. Describe the statue of the Happy Prince as depicted at the beginning of the story.

Answer: The statue of the Happy Prince was mounted on a tall column high above the city. It had thin leaves of fine gold gilded all over. Two bright sapphires were its eyes and a large red ruby glowed on its sword hilt.

1. What are the two strange things the guru and his disciple find in the Kingdom of Fools?

Ans. When the guru and his disciple reach the kingdom of fools, they find the following two strange things-

a) All the people sleep during the day and work during the night time. They have trained the cattle and all the other animals also to do the same as they fear punishment at the hands of the king.

b) Everything in the kingdom of fools- a bag of rice or a bunch of bananas costs one duddu. The guru is astonished and his disciple is excited to realize that food is so cheap in the kingdom.

2. Why does the disciple decide to stay in the Kingdom of Fools? Is it a good idea?

Ans. The disciple loves food. He gets excited to see such cheap food available in the kingdom of fools. As he wants to relish more and more food, he stays back in the kingdom of fools. His decision was not a good one as he got into trouble. Although he was innocent, the king’s men took him for execution as they needed a fat person who could be killed easily by the stake.

3. Name all the people who are tried in the king’s court, and give the reasons for their trial.

Ans. The names of the people who were tried in the king’s court are as follows-

a) The rich merchant who was the owner of the house was tried because the wall that collapsed onto the thief belonged to him. Later, on he was again tried and held guilty on behalf of his dead father who had ordered the goldsmith to deliver the ornaments in a haste due to which the goldsmith could not deliver the dancing girl’s ornaments in time.

b) The bricklayer who had built the weak wall was also tried for constructing the wall that collapsed and killed the thief.

c) The dancing girl was tried for distracting the bricklayer. As she walked in the lane again and again, the jingling sound of her anklets distracted the bricklayer because of which he constructed a weak wall.

d) The goldsmith was tried because it was due to him that the dancing girl had to walk up and down the lane again and again.

e) The rich merchant’s dead father was tried because he had ordered the goldsmith to deliver his ornaments first as there was a wedding with his family. Due to his order the goldsmith was unable to make the dancing girl’s ornaments in time.

[2:20 PM, 8/13/2024] Mohith Mohan: 4. Who is the real culprit according to the king? Why does he escape punishment?

Ans. According to the king, the real culprit was the merchant’s dead father. As he was dead, he could not be punished and in place of him, his son who had inherited all his property would be punished.

The merchant escapes the punishment as the minister feels that he is too thin to be killed by the stake.

5. What are the Guru’s words of wisdom? When does the disciple remember them?

Ans. The Guru had told his disciple that the place was a kingdom of fools and they was unsafe for them. He had asked his disciple to leave the place at once. The disciple is reminded of his Guru’s words of wisdom when he lands into trouble. When the king’s men take him for execution, he prays to his Guru and asks him to save his life.

6. How does the guru manage to save his disciple’s life?

Ans. The guru is a wise and intelligent man. He traps the foolish king in his talks. He says that as he is the Guru, he is senior to his disciple and so, he should be killed first. The king gets confused to see the Guru’s eagerness to die. He asks him the reason for it. On being promise that he would be killed first, the Guru says that as the stake is a new one, it has not killed any criminal. He adds that the person who would be killed by the state first would be reborn as the king of the kingdom. The second person who would be killed by the stake would be reborn as the Minister of the kingdom. The king considers the Guru to be genuine and so, tells his minister that they should not lose their kingdom in the next birth. In this way, the king decides to save his kingdom and get himself and his minister killed by the stake in place of the guru and his disciple. Hence, the Guru saves his disciple’s life.

[2:22 PM, 8/13/2024] Mohith Mohan: Q1. Why were the people of the kingdom confused when they saw the dead bodies of the king and his minister?

Ans. The people of the kingdom were confused as to how their king and the minister were dead instead of the Guru and the disciple. The people were not able to see through the plan which was executed by the Guru against their king and minister.

Q2. When does the disciple remember the words of his Guru?

Ans. When the Guru advised the disciple to leave the kingdom of fools, the disciple overlooked his advice. Later, when the king decided that the disciple was the suitable person for execution, he remembered the words of the Guru.

Q3. How was the kingdom of fools different from any other place?

Ans. The kingdom of fools was a different place altogether. Day was regarded as night and night as day. Even the animals were awake at night, not just people. One Duddu could buy anything and everything.

**Q4. Why did the Guru want that he and his disciple should die first?**

**Ans. The Guru was trying to befool the King. He said that the first person to die at the new stake would be reborn as a King and the second to die, would be reborn as a Minister of the Kingdom. This is the reason why the Guru and his disciple showed eagerness to die first. 1. Describe the statue of the Happy Prince.  
Answer:** The statue of the Happy Prince stood on a tall pillar. He was covered with gold. He had sapphires for his eyes. He had a large ruby on the hilt of his sword

**2. What made the statue of the Happy Prince cry?  
Answer:** The statue of the Happy Prince was on a high pillar, He could see the sorrows and misery of people. He saw a seamstress. Her son was ill. But she had nothing to give her except the river water. This made the Happy Prince cry.

**3.** **Why was the statue called the Happy Prince?**  
**Answer:** This was the statue of a Prince. When he was alive he lived in a palace. He did not know what tears. There were was no sorrow in his life. He was always happy He lived and died as a Happy Prince. So his statue was called the Happy Prince.

**4.  Why did the Happy Prince request the swallow to stay with him for the night?  
Answer:** The Happy Prince was very kind. He saw that the poor seamstress was very sad. Her son was ill. She had nothing to give him except the river water. The Happy Prince wanted to help her. He wanted to send her a ruby. But he could not move. So he requested the swallow to stay with him for the night.

**5. How did the swallow give comfort to the son of the seamstress?  
Answer:** The swallow came to the house of the seamstress. He found that her son was suffering from a fever. He took pity on him. He fanned the boy with his wings. The son felt comfort. He fell asleep.

**6. What was the last wish of the swallow?  
Answer:** The swallow knew that her end had come. He flew on to the shoulder of the Happy Prince and said, “wish to kiss your hand.” The Happy Prince asked him to kiss him on the lips. He kissed on his lips and then died.

**7. Describe the statue of the Happy Prince as depicted at the beginning of the story.  
Answer:** The statue of the Happy Prince was mounted on a tall column high above the city. It had thin leaves of fine gold gilded all over. Two bright sapphires were its eyes and a large red ruby glowed on its sword hilt.

**8. Where was the swallow going? Why did he decide not to go there?  
Answer:** The swallow was going to Egypt to join his friends who had already reached there six weeks ago. Initially, he had stopped by only for a night to break his long journey but later got so attached to the Happy Prince that he could not bear to see him crying. He stayed back to be his messenger.

**9. Why did the swallow stop in the city? Where did he put up for the night?  
Answer:** The swallow stopped at the city to break his long journey to Egypt. His friends had already reached there. He alighted between the feet of the statue of the Happy Prince for a night’s stay.

**10. What happened when the little swallow was getting ready to sleep?  
Answer:** A large drop of water fell on the little swallow when he was getting ready to sleep. He considered it a curious thing because it was a clear, bright, starlit, and cloudless night with no indication of rain.

**11. What were the drops of rain actually? Why did they fall?  
Answer:** The drops of rain were actually the tears that rolled down the Happy Prince’s sapphire eyes. The Prince’s sapphire eyes shed them because he was sad to see the poverty and misery of the city dwellers.

**12. What made the statue of the Happy Prince cry?  
Answer:** The Happy Prince had never seen or experienced sorrow all his life. But after his death, his statue was put up on a high pedestal from where he could see the ugliness and misery of his land. This made him cry with sorrow.

**13. When did the Prince first ask the swallow to stay on? Why?  
Answer:** The Prince first asked the swallow to stay on for the night when he had seen the poor seamstress and her sick son. The Prince’s feet were fastened to the pedestal and he could not move. So, he needed the help of swallow in bringing relief and joy to the seamstress and her hungry and sick son.

**14. Why did the swallow refuse to carry ruby to the seamstress? Why did he finally agree to do it?  
Answer:** The swallow first refused to carry the ruby to the seamstress because he wanted to be with his friends who were in Egypt. Moreover, when the Happy Prince expected help for the little boy of the seamstress, the bird said that he did not like boys. However, he agreed to stay for the night on seeing the Happy Prince in such a sorrowful state.

**15. How did the swallow reach the seamstress’s house?  
Answer:** The swallow flew over roofs of the town and passed the cathedral tower with white marbled angels sculptured on it. He flew over the palace and the river before he finally reached the seamstress’s house.

**16. What did the swallow overhear while going to the seamstress’s house?  
Answer:** As he passed by the palace, the swallow saw a beautiful girl come out into the balcony. The swallow overheard her saying that she hoped her dress would be ready for the state ball and that she had ordered flowers to be embroidered on it but the seamstresses were a lazy lot.

**17. Why and how did the Happy Prince help the seamstress?  
Answer:** The Happy Prince decided to help the poor seamstress who was dead tired and whose son was hungry and lay in the fever. The poor woman had no money to feed her son and get him medicine. She only gave him water to drink. The Prince wanted the swallow to carry the ruby from his sword hilt so that the seamstress could get rid of her poverty and buy her son food and medicine.

**18. Why does the Happy Prince send a ruby for the seamstress?  
Answer:** What does the swallow do in the seamstress’s house? (Textual) The Happy Prince sends a ruby for the seamstress to help her get over her poverty so that she could buy food and medicine for her son. The swallow laid the great ruby on the table beside the woman’s thimble and flew around the bed, fanning the boy’s forehead with his wings.

**19. Why couldn’t the poor seamstress sit beside her ailing son?  
Answer:** The poor seamstress had to work endlessly to complete a gown that had to be worn by the Queen’s loveliest maid of honour at the court ball. Tired and hungry, she fell off to sleep while her ailing son tossed on the bed alone.  
  
**20. What change came over the bird on his return from the seamstress’s house? Why?  
Answer:** After returning from the seamstress’s house, the swallow felt curious that despite the cold he was feeling quite warm. The Happy Prince told him that it was so because he had done a good deed.

**21. What did the swallow do before planning for his flight towards Egypt on the second night?**

**Answer:** The swallow bathed in the river at dawn and then spent the day to visit the city’s monuments. He also sat for a long time on top of the church steeple. Finally, he went to the Prince to ask him if he had any commissions for Egypt.

**22. How did the swallow become the Prince’s eyes?**

**Answer:**  The swallow stayed back with the blind Prince. He would fly over the city and see its people in all their colours. He would report their miseries and sufferings to the Prince. Then, on the Prince’s orders, he would pluck the golden leaves from his statue and give them to the needy.

**23. The little Swallow grew colder and colder but kept up his determination. How did the bird show his great strength and courage?**

**Answer:** The bird grew cold because of the snow and the frost but he did not leave the Happy Prince. He would eat crumbs from a baker’s shop and keep himself warm by flapping his wings. He showed great strength and courage by staying on beside the Happy Prince in spite of the bitter cold and the consequent risk to his life.

**24. What did the swallow do when he realised that he was going to die? How did the Prince respond?**

**Answer:** On realising that he was going to die, the swallow gathered his remaining strength and flew up to the prince’s shoulder. He bid him goodbye and sought permission to kiss his hand. The Prince thought that the swallow was going to leave for Egypt. He welcomed this decision and asked the swallow to kiss him on his lips instead, as he loved him.

**25. Why was a cracking sound heard when the swallow died?  
Or  
What happened when the little swallow fell down dead at the feet of the Happy Prince?  
Answer:** The Happy Prince loved the swallow dearly. So when the bird kissed the Prince and fell down dead at his feet, the latter’s leaden heart broke into two with a curious cracking sound.

**26. What happened to the Prince’s heart? Why?  
Answer:** As the swallow fell dead at the Prince’s feet, the latter’s lead heart broke into two. This happened because the Prince loved the bird dearly. Although it was a dreadful winter, still the heart broke, for it was deeply hurt.

**27. What made the Happy Prince look shabby and beggarly?  
Or  
Why did the Mayor and Town Councillors comment that the Prince looked ‘little better than a beggar’?  
Answer:** The gold leaves that covered the statue of the Happy Prince were gradually given away in charity by him. His sapphire eyes and the red ruby on the sword hilt too were given away. This made him look shabby and beggarly

**28. Why did the Town Councillors decide to pull down the statue of the Happy Prince?  
Or  
How did the Mayor and his Councillors react to seeing the statue of the Happy Prince?  
Answer:** The Mayor and the Town Councillors were shocked to see the dull looking statue of the Happy Prince bereft of his sapphire eyes, ruby-studded sword hilt and gold leaves. They decided to pull it down because it looked much too shabby and beggarly, and was no longer beautiful or useful.

**29. What strange thing was observed by the overseer?  
Answer:** The statue of the Happy Prince was pulled down and put to melt in a furnace. The overseer at the foundry noticed a strange thing at this time. The broken lead heart of the Prince did not melt and had to be thrown away in the dust.

**30. What happened to the leaden heart of the Happy Prince after it was thrown away?  
Answer:** Because it did not melt in the foundry, the Happy Prince’s lead heart was thrown away on a dust-heap where the swallow also lay dead. Later on, God’s Angels chose the heart as well as the dead swallow as the two most precious things in the city.

**31. What are the two most precious things mentioned in the story? Why are they precious?  
Or  
What did the Angel consider the two most precious things in the city? Why?  
Answer:** The two most precious things mentioned in the story are the kind lead-heart of the Happy Prince and the dead swallow. They are precious because the Angel chooses them for their virtues and noble deeds, and God gives them a place in his garden of Paradise.

**32. What is the moral of the story “The Happy Prince”?  
Answer:** The moral of the story is that charity and compassion can endear us to God. Love, sacrifice and pity should be the governing virtues of mankind. Outward beauty is superficial and a heart that feels for others is the noblest heart.

**33. Describe the statue of the Happy Prince.  
Answer:** The statue was covered with thin leaves of fine gold. It had two bright sapphires for its eyes. There was a large red ruby on its sword-hilt.

**34. What made the Happy Prince cry?  
Answer:** The Happy Prince could see all the misery of the city. He cried on seeing the sorrows of the poor people.  
  
**35. To whom did the prince send his ruby and why?  
Answer:** The prince sent his ruby to a poor seamstress. Her son was ill. He was asking for oranges. But his mother had no money. So the prince wanted to help her.

**36. How did the prince and the swallow enable the playwright to finish his work?  
Answer:** The playwright was feeling very cold and hungry. He could not finish his play. The prince asked the swallow to take one of his sapphires to the playwright. Thus they helped him to finish his work.

**37. How did the prince help the match-girl? What was the result?  
Answer:** The prince sent the sapphire to the match-girl. She became very happy. She ran home laughing.

**38. Why did the swallow decide not to leave the prince?  
Answer:** The prince had given the sapphires from his eyes to the poor. He was now completely blind. Therefore, the swallow decided to stay with him.

**39. How did the prince and the swallow help the poor?  
Answer:** The swallow told the prince about the misery of the people. The prince asked the swallow to pluck gold and jewels from his body. He asked the swallow to give all these to the poor.

**40. What did the angel consider ‘the two most precious things in the city’?  
Answer:** He considered the lead heart and the dead swallow the two most precious things in the city.

**41. When the prince was alive, he did not know what tears were. Why?  
Answer:** The prince lived in a palace. No sorrow was allowed to enter there. The prince never had the taste of sorrow. So he did not know what tears were.

**42. What was the boy’s mother doing when the swallow flew into the room? Where did he put the ruby? Why did the boy feel cool?  
Answer:** The boy’s mother had fallen asleep. The swallow put the ruby on a table near the woman. He fanned the boy with his wings. The boy now felt cool.

**43. What made the playwright happy?  
Answer:** The playwright saw a sapphire lying near him on the table. He thought it had been sent by some great admirer. This made him happy.

**44. Describe the sufferings of poor people in the city. How did the Happy Prince help them?**

**Answer:** The poor people in the city lived a miserable life. There was a poor seamstress. She had nothing to give her son who was sick. So the Happy Prince sent a ruby for her. There was a playwright who had no firewood to keep himself warm. The prince sent him a sapphire. There was a match-girl who had no shoes or stockings. Her matches had fallen in the gutter. She was crying. The prince sent her his second sapphire. There were hungry and homeless children. The prince sent them all the gold leaves he had on his body.

**45. Give a brief character-sketch of the Happy Prince.**

**Answer:** The Happy Prince saw the misery of the poor people. His heart melted with pity for them. Their sufferings brought tears to his eyes. He gave away his ruby, sapphires and all the gold for the poor. He became blind. His body looked ugly. But he was happy at heart because he had given away his all for the poor. The Happy Prince came to know that real happiness lay in the service of the poor. God blessed him and kept him in His city of gold.

**46. Give a brief character-sketch of the swallow.**

**Answer:** The swallow was every inch like the Happy Prince. It had a very kind heart. It saw tears in the prince’s eyes. Its heart melted with pity. It wanted to help the prince. Therefore, it gave up its idea of going to Egypt. It stayed with the prince on cold nights. When the prince became blind, the swallow, decided to live with him forever. It died one day. But even the dead could not separate it from the prince. It was taken to heaven along with the prince.

Long Answer Type Questions:

**1. What does the swallow see when it flies over the city?  
Or  
What did the swallow observe when he flew over the city?**

**Answer:** Flying over the city, the swallow saw the difference in the ways the rich and the poor lived. He saw the rich making merry in their beautiful houses, while the beggars were sitting at their gates. In the dark lanes, he saw the white faces of starving children looking out lifelessly. Two little boys were trying to keep each other warm by hugging close under the archway of a bridge and the watchman was telling them not to lie them. Uncared for and unwanted, these boys wandered out into the rain. Thus, the swallow saw the same misery that made the Happy Prince weep.

**2. Why do the courtiers call the prince ‘the Happy Prince’? Is he really happy? What does he see all around him?  
Or  
Why was ‘Happy Prince’ not really happy?**

**Answer:** The courtiers call the prince the ‘Happy Prince’ because he lived a happy life during which no sorrow could enter his palace. However, the prince was not actually happy because he had never got the chance to witness the misery and plight of his people. By keeping him away from sorrow, his heart was never given a chance to feel the virtues of pity and compassion. So, when his statue was placed at a point from where he could see the city laid before him, he saw pain, hunger, want, and suffering all around. Even his lead heart could not help but weep at this site.

**3. When and how did the Happy Prince realise the true meaning of life? What did this realisation prompt him to do?**

**Answer:**The Happy Prince had lived a very comfortable life and had not known any sorrow when he was alive. In fact, sorrow was not allowed to enter the palace where he lived. Thus, he was called the ‘Happy Prince’ by his ministers. However, after his death, his gold and jewel-studded statue were put up on a high column in the city. From here, the Happy Prince, like a statue, got to see the pain and miseries of the people. He then realised that ugliness and sufferings are the true faces of life. He felt that the misery suffered by humans was the greatest mystery and the plight of – men and women was more marvellous than the grandeurs of riches. He then started giving away his riches to the needy and tried to relieve them of the pain of poverty.

**4. How did the swallow exhibit the values of unconditional love and devotion? ,  
Or  
The swallow was to fly away to Egypt. Why did he decide to stay on with the Happy Prince?  
What does this act of his show about his character?**

**Answer:** The swallow happened to stop by at the city where the statue of the Happy Prince was placed. It was the sheer chance that he took shelter between the feet of the statue for just one night on way to Egypt, but stayed back till his last breath because he was moved by the Prince’s selfless love, kindness and spirit of self-sacrifice. This act of the swallow shows the qualities of compassion, understanding and helpfulness in his character.

He helped the Prince by becoming his messenger and carrying the jewels from the statue to the seamstress, the playwright and the match girl. He became a constant companion to the Prince after both the sapphires had been plucked out from his eye sockets. The swallow loved the Prince unconditionally and became his eyes by flying over the city and reporting the hardships and miseries of the people. He would faithfully follow all the orders of the Prince and carry the gold leaves from the statue and give them to the needy. Thus, the good values of the swallow helped him to remain a loving companion to the Prince till cold and hunger snatched away his life.

**5. How did the Happy Prince discover true happiness? How did he spread it?  
Or  
What the Happy Prince does as a statue should have been done by him when he was alive? Discuss.**

**Answer:** The Happy Prince had lived a very comfortable life as long as he lived. He had never seen sorrow as it was not allowed to enter his palace. Hence his courtiers called him the ‘Happy Prince’. However, after his death, his statue was put up on a high column and he got to see the miseries, sorrows and sufferings of the people in his city and decided to do his bit to lessen them. That is when he discovered true happiness and from thereon he spread it by sacrificing all that he had.  
For example, he had the ruby in his sword hilt sent to a poor seamstress to help her get over poverty and buy food and medicines for her ailing son.

Again, the Happy Prince sent one of his sapphire eyes to a poor playwright in need of warmth and food so that he could complete his play for a show. The other sapphire was sent to a matchgirl who was crying because her matches had fallen in a gutter and she feared her father would beat her for not bringing home any money. And whatever leaves of fine gold the Prince had were distributed among the poor to bring them succour. Thus, the Prince donated all that he had to end misery and poverty in the city. This is what he, and for that matter, any prince on the earth, should have done, for the true purpose of life is to be happy by spreading happiness.

**6. Imagine you are the playwright who received the mystery gift of a sapphire. While passing by the statue you get to unravel the mystery when you overhear the general public and councillors discussing the dull statue of the Happy Prince. Write a diary entry expressing your gratitude to the Happy Prince and expressing your dismay at the council’s decision of pulling down the statue.**

**Answer:** Dear Diary  
For days I have been trying to unravel the mystery of a precious sapphire I found at my desk a few days ago. I wondered who this admirer and saviour were. I wanted to personally thank him for his generous and timely help in saving my life and my career as a playwright.

The mystery got solved today when I was passing by the statue of the Happy Prince. A crowd of people, among them the Mayor and Town Councillors, were discussing how shabby and dull the statue looked without its ruby, sapphires and gold leaves. That is when I realized that the sapphire I had got was actually one of the eyes of the statue of the Happy Prince. That also explained how the poor and needy people in the city were mysteriously getting jewels and gold so that they could end their poverty and miseries. The Happy Prince with the help of the swallow – his noble companion – had brought so much happiness to the poor and downtrodden by sacrificing all he had.

It utterly dismayed me to hear of the council’s decision to pull down the statue because it looked nothing better than a dull, shabby beggar! How callous and ignorant the Mayor and the Councillors are!

However, I shall remain eternally grateful to the Happy Prince and the swallow, his faithful companion, and as a token of my gratitude to them, I am going to write and stage a play to highlight their exemplary sacrifices in bringing joy and happiness to the poor and needy people of the city.  
May the soul of the Happy Prince and the swallow rest in eternal peace in the abode of God.

**7. Why did the Happy Prince send a ruby to the seamstress?**

**Answer:** The Happy Prince was very kind. He saw the ugliness and misery of his city. He saw a small house. In this house there lived a poor woman. She was a seamstress. Her face was thin. She looked tired. Her hands were rough. There were needle marks on them. She was embroidering flowers on a satin gown. Her son was ill. He wanted to cat oranges. But the woman was very poor. She could not give him anything except the river water. She could not leave the town. The Queen’s maid had to wear it at the next court ball. The Happy Prince felt pity for the poor woman and his son. He wanted to help them. So he sent a ruby to her.

**8. Why did the Happy Prince request the swallow to stay for another day?**

**Answer:** The  Happy Prince was on a tall column. From there he could see the miseries of people. He wanted to help the poor. But he could not move. The Prince wanted to help a poor seamstress. He sent a ruby to her through the swallow  Then the Prince saw a playwright. He was leaning on his desk. He was very handsome.  His hair was brown and crisp. He was trying to finish a play. But he was feeling very cold. He had no firewood to keep himself warm. The Prince wanted to help him. He wanted to send one of the sapphires of his eyes to the young man. So he requested the swallow to stay for another day.

**9. Describe the sufferings of poor people in the city. How did The Happy Prince help them?**

**Answer:** The poor people in the city were miserable. The Happy Prince saw their sorrows and sufferings. There was a poor seamstress. She was sad and tired. But she had nothing to give him except the river water. In another house, there lived a poor playwright. He had no wood to keep himself warm. There was a little match girl. She had no shoes or stockings. The Prince also saw the homeless and children. They were hungry and were shivering with cold. The Prince felt pity for them.  He sent the ruby to the poor woman. He sent one sapphire each to the young man and the match girl. He sent all the gold of his body to these children. Now they could buy bread and be happy. Thus the Happy Prince helped the poor and sad people of his city.

**10. What happened to the statue of the Prince and the swallow in the end?**

**Answer:**The swallow and the Happy Prince became friends. The swallow loved the Prince for his kindness. He decided not to go away. The Prince sent his ruby and the sapphires of his eyes to the poor people. He sent the gold of his body to the poor children. Now he was blind and ugly. Then winter came. The little swallow felt very cold. But he did not leave the Prince. One day, the swallow died. The leaden heart of the Prince broke in two. The next day, the statue was pulled down. It was melted in a furnace. But leaden heart did not melt. It was thrown into a heap. The dead body of the swallow was also lying there. God sent his angel to bring the two most precious things from the city. The angel brought him the leaden heart of the Prince and the dead body of the swallow.