

Class-10

Sub.-English.

Chapter - 4 ( The Tale of Bishnois)

Write and learn the following questions.

(C) Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words each.

1. What kind of trees and animals were found in the desert of Marwar ?  
**Ans.** Different types of trees and animals were found in the desert of Marwar. Out of these trees were Khejdi, Ber, Ker and Sangri. Similarly, antelopes, blackbuck, chinkara and nilgai were found there. Even till today, they can be seen.
2. Who were the original residents of Marwar ?  
**Ans.** The original residents of Marwar were the tribal Bhils. But about three thousand years ago, a large number of cattle keepers entered Marwar from west and central Asia. They settled there. They pushed the Bhils a little towards the Aravallis.
3. How was the vegetation of Marwar affected ?  
**Ans.** Due to the large herds of cattle, the vegetation of Marwar was adversely affected over centuries. The seedlings and saplings were grazed down and had little chance to grow.
4. Who conquered the Bhils finally and became the ruler of the whole Marwar ?  
**Ans.** First of all, the invaders of West and Central Asia conquered the Bhils of Marwar. They retreated a little towards the Aravallis. Finally, the Rathores of Kanauj conquered the Bhils in the thirteenth century. They became the rulers of the whole Marwar.
5. What were the names of the parents of Jambaji ?  
**Ans.** An extraordinary child Jambaji was born in the village of Pipasar. His father was Thakur Lohat, a rich landlord and village headman. His mother was Hamsadevi.
6. What was the most fascinating and enthralling thing for Jambaji ?  
**Ans.** For Jambaji, the most fascinating thing was the lithe grace of beautiful blackbucks; and the most enthralling thing was a fight between two well-grown stags.
7. What were the two major commandments of Jambaji's message ?  
**Ans.** The two major commandments of Jambaji's message which was given in the form of twenty-nine basic tenets were a prohibition against the cutting down of any green tree, and the killing of any animal.
8. Why were Bishnois called by this name ?  
**Ans.** Bishnois were Jambaji's followers. They were called 'Bishnois or Twenty-niners' (bis = Twenty, noi = nine) because they adhered to Jambaji's message which was given in the form of twenty nine basic tenets.
9. What is the use of lime kilns ?  
**Ans.** With the help of a lot of fuel, lime kilns are used to cure limestone. When the limestone is cured, it takes the shape of lime which was used as a building material in earlier times.
10. Why did the Diwan send his men to Khejadali ?  
**Ans.** A lot of lime was needed to build Maharaja Abhay Singh's palace. As Khejadali had a large number of Khejdi trees, the Diwan sent his men there to cut those trees to provide fuel for the lime kilns that would produce lime from limestone.
11. What promise did Abhay Singh make to Bishnois ?  
**Ans.** Abhay Singh promised the weeping, agonised mass of thousands of Bishnois that from then on he would fully respect their religious principles. He also promised not to cut any green tree and not to hunt any animal there.

12. What was written on the inscription presented to Bishnois?

Ans. It was written on the inscription presented to Bishnois that henceforth no green tree would ever be cut near Bishnoi villages and that not a single animal would be hunted in their vicinity.

(D) Answer the following questions in 60 words each :

1. What was the disaster Marwar faced when Jambaji was twenty five years old ?

Ans. When Jambaji was twenty-five years old, rainfall, that used to be already scarce, stopped completely. The drought continued for eight consecutive years. The cattle and people, both suffered greatly. People ate Khejdi pods and flour of dried ber seeds when grain stocks were exhausted. The starving cattle died and people hunted the last of the blackbucks.

2. How did Jambaji's teaching affect the villagers ?

Ans. The villagers eagerly accepted Jambaji's teachings. They preserved the trees around their villages and protected all birds and animals. Gradually, their territory became covered with trees, Their cattle had abundant browse. Their land recovered its fertility and the Bishnois became prosperous. Jambaji's teachings thus brought about a great, positive change in the lives of villagers.

3. What did Bishnois sacrifice their lives for ?

Ans. When the Diwan of Jodhpur ordered his men to cut down the khejdi trees at village Khejadali, in order to provide fuel for lime-kilns, the Bishnois did not let them do so. When the Diwan persisted with force, the villagers clasped the trees in their arms and they were cut down along with the trees. Thus, they sacrificed their lives to protect khejdi trees.

4. How did Bishnois save the trees ?

Ans. When hundreds of Bishnois were massacred along with the trees that they were trying to save, the terrible news spread rapidly. This frightened the Maharaja's men who had never imagined such an outcome. They reported this to the Maharaja, who realised that his might could do nothing in face of such moral courage. Thus, he assured the villagers that no green tree would be cut henceforth.

5. Why were Abhay Singh's men frightened ?

Ans. Abhay Singh's men were ordered to cut down the khejdi trees at Khejadali. When these men readied themselves to cut down the trees with their axes, the villagers clasped each tree in an embrace, telling the men that they could cut the trees only when they cut them (the villagers). As the men hacked the villagers along with the trees, a massacre resulted. This bloodshed frightened Abhay Singh's men.

6. What made Abhay Singh visit Khejadali ?

Ans. When the Diwan's men reported the unimaginable incident of Bishnois' massacre to Maharaja Abhay Singh, he realized the true devotion and moral courage of the Bishnois to save green trees. He was deeply touched by this. He personally rode to Khejadali to mend the matters. Abhay Singh assured the weeping and crying Bishnois that in future, he would fully respect their religion and principles.

7. What do you learn from this tale ?

Ans. This tale encourages us to grow and nurture more and more trees and plants. We should

POCO  
SHOT ON POCO F1



never cut green trees for our greedy self-interests. Trees give us fresh air (oxygen), cool shade, fruits, medicines and a number of other useful products. In fact, trees give us life. By developing forests, we replenish nature and help wild animals to thrive and multiply in their natural habitat.

8. What impression do you get from the action of Diwan? What would you have done if you had been in place of Diwan?

Or

How do you like the action of the Diwan? Had you been in his place, how would you have acted?

**Ans.** The Diwan ordered the trees to be cut to obtain fuel for the lime kilns. As a result, many people lost their lives. I dislike the Diwan's action. He must have respected people's love and affection for trees. If I had been in the Diwan's place, I would have consulted the Maharaja and told him about the situation. I would have suggested him to use some other fuel alternative.

9. How did Abhay Singh console the enraged Bishnois?

**Ans.** Abhay Singh was shocked at the massacre of villagers who had tried to save the trees. He rode personally to Khejadali and assured the agonised Bishnois that from now on he would fully respect their religious principles. He promised them that henceforth no green tree would be cut nor any animal be killed near Bishnoi villages. Thus he tried to console them.

10. What message was inscribed on the copper plate?

**Ans.** Abhay Singh wanted to assure the villagers that henceforth their religious principles would be respected and their villages would not be subjected to any such activity as would offend their tenets. Therefore, he presented the villagers a copper plate on which the inscription read that no green tree would ever be cut near Bishnoi villages, nor would any animals be hunted in their vicinity.