



aglasem.com

Class 10 English (First Flight) Notes

The Sermon at Benares



Key Notes and Important Questions with Answers

Ch -10 : THE SERMON AT BENARAS SOLVED

SUMMARY AT A GLANCE

- * This is the story about a great saint Gautam Buddha, who was born in a royal family.
- * Till about the age of twenty-five, he was shielded from the sufferings of the world.
- * One day he happened to see a sick man, then an aged man, then a funeral procession and finally a monk begging for alms.
- * He was moved by the sufferings of others. He left his wife, child, palace and all the worldly pleasure in search of enlightenment. He wandered for years and finally sat down under a fig tree.
- * Enlightened after seven days, he began to teach and to share his new understandings.
- * Once a woman Kisa Gotami came to him after the demise of her son. Gautam Buddha advised her to request people to give her mustard seeds only if no one in their family had died.
- * When Gotami could not get such a house, she understood the secret of life and death.

Words	Meanings
Scriptures	The holy books of a particular religion
Procession	A line of people that move along slowly (as a part of ceremony)
Composed	calm
Afflicted with	pain
Extinguish	To make a fire/light stop burning/shining

Comprehension Passages

Gautama Buddha (563 B.C.)- 483 B.C.) began his life as a Prince named Siddhartha Gautam, in northern India. At twelve he was sent away for schooling in the Hindu sacred scriptures and four years later he returned home to marry a princess. They had a son and lived for ten years as befitted royalty

- (i) How did Gautam Buddha begin his life?
- (ii) For how long he lived as a prince?
- (iii) Find the word from the passage which means 'a person who belong to the family of a king of queen'

Answers.

- (i) He began his life as a prince, namely Siddhartha Gautam
- (ii) About twenty five years.
- (iii) Royal.

Passage-2

He wandered for seven years and finally sat down under a fig tree, where he vowed to stay until enlightenment came. Enlightened after seven days, He renamed the tree (the tree of wisdom) and began to teach and to share his new understandings. At that point he became known as the Buddha (the awakened or the enlightened) The Buddha preached his first sermon at the city of Benaras, most holy of the dipping places in the River Ganges. That sermon has been preserved and is given here.

- (i) Why did he wander?
- (ii) How did he get the Buddha
- (iii) Why did he rename the tree? which tree was it?
- (iv) Which word from the passage means 'religious talk'

Passage-3

Poor Kisa Gotami now went from house to house, and the people pitied her and said, "Here is mustard- seed; take it! But when she asked, "did a son or a daughter, a father or a mother die in your family?" they answered her, "Alas! the living are few, but the dead are many. Do not remind us of our deepest grief." And there was no house but some beloved one had died in it.

- (i) Why did Kisa Gotami go from house to house.
- (ii) What did she tell?
- (iii) What response did she get?
- (iv) Find the word from the passage which means the same as 'pain'.

Passage-4

"How selfish am I in my grief! Death is common to all; yet in this valley of desolation there is a path that leads him to immortality who has surrendered all selfishness."

- (i) Who is 'I' in the above lines?
- (ii) What is her grief?
- (iii) Find the word which means the same as 'that lives or lasts forever'
- (iv) What lesson did she learn

Passage-5

Mark! While relatives are looking on and lamenting deeply, one by one Martyrs are carried off, like an ox that is led to the slaughter. So the world is afflicted with death and decay, therefore the wise do not grieve, knowing the terms of the world. Not from weeping nor from

grieving will anyone obtain peace of mind; on the contrary, his pain will be greater and his lamentations. He who seeks peace should draw out the arrow of lamentation, and complaint and grief.

- (i) What is the fate of the mortals in the world?
- (ii) Why do the wise men not grieve?
- (iii) Find out a word which means 'the killing of animals for their meat'
- (iv) How is the one who seeks peace rewarded?

Short Answer Questions

- (a) Why was Gautama known as Buddha?
- (b) Where did Gautama Buddha preach his first sermon?

ANSWERS

- (a) 'Buddha' means 'the awakened'. When he started sharing his new understandings with people, he was called 'Buddha'
- (b) Gautama Buddha preached his first sermon at Benaras
- (c) Why was Kisa Gotami sad? What advice was given to her?
- (d) Why could Kisa Gotami not get any mustard seed?
- (e) According to Gautam Buddha, how can a person get peace of mind?

