



LESSON NO. 1

SANDREMBI AND CHAISRA

SOLUTIONS:

COMPREHENSION

1. Answer the following questions:

i) Who were the two step sisters?

Ans: The two step sisters were Chaisra and Sandrembi.

ii) What thought was nurtured by Chaisra's mother?

Ans: Chaisra's mother always thought of harming Sandrembi, her brother and mother.

iii) How did Sandrembi's mother die?

Ans: Sandrembi's mother and Chaisra's mother went for fishing one day. Sandrembi's mother caught a large number of fishes. Chaisra's mother couldn't catch any fish. Instead, she caught a number of snakes and she put all of it in her tungon. They took rest under a fig tree full of ripe fruits. Chaisra's mother climbed the tree and asked Sandrembi's mother to open her mouth. A ripe fruit was dropped. Again, Chaisra's mother asked her to open her mouth. That time she took her tungon and poured all the snakes into the mouth of sandrembi's mother. Immediately, sandrembi's mother died.

iv) What did Sandrembi's mother tell her in her dreams?

Ans: Sandrembi's mother came in her dream and told her daughter that she had been murdered by her step-mother. She had turned into a turtle. She told her daughter to come and catch her in the morning and put her in a pitcher inside the kitchen for five days. She would then turn herself to her human form.

v) How was the turtle killed?

Ans: Sandrembi caught the turtle and carefully brought it home. Chaisra saw Sandrembi putting the turtle in the pitcher. She told her mother about it and they hatched a plan. Chaisra started crying for water and her mother told her to drink water from the pitcher in the kitchen. The turtle was discovered. The helpless Sandrembi had to obey her wicked step-mother. She started boiling the turtle in the pot. This was how the turtle was killed.

vi) How did Sandrembi's mother turn into a swallow?

Ans: Chaisra and her mother ate the turtle and they threw the bones near the house. Sandrembi's mother came in her dream and told her daughter to wrap the bones and keep them in a basket for seven days and she would try to change herself to her human form. On the sixth day, she opened the basket out of curiosity. As the number of days fell short, a swallow flew out of the basket.

vii) Why did Chaisra's mother make Sandrembi wear the new clothes?

Ans: One day Sandrembi and Chaisra went out to fetch water. Sandrembi's clothes were old and torn while Chaisra wore beautiful new clothes. The king passing by saw them. He fell in love with Sandrembi because her beauty struck his heart. The king also wanted to drink water from her. Chaisra narrated everything to her mother at home. The following day the wicked mother gave the torn clothes to her daughter and she gave the beautiful new clothes to Sandrembi.

viii) How was Sandrembi killed?

Ans: Sandrembi was married to the king and she became the queen. Chaisra and her mother became very angry. They again hatched a plot to kill Sandrembi. They came to the palace and Sandrembi was invited for a meal. Sandrembi came for the meal alone and after eating, she found Chaisra wearing her clothes. Sandrembi told her to give her clothes back. Chaisra took out the clothes and threw them under the bed. Sandrembi crawled under the bed to collect her clothes. As she came out, they poured boiling water all over her body. Thus, Sandrembi died immediately.

ix) Why was the gardener surprised?

Ans: Sandrembi died immediately after Chaisra and her mother poured boiling water over her. Her soul turned into a dove and flew away. The dove one day flew into the garden of the palace and started singing. The gardener was surprised to see a bird singing in human language.

x) How was Sandrembi reunited with the king?

Ans: Chaisra and her mother always had ill-feelings for Sandrembi. When she came for a meal at their place, they killed her by pouring boiling water over her. Her soul turned into a dove and flew away. Chaisra wearing Sandrembi's clothes went to the palace. The dove flew in to the garden of the palace. The gardener was surprised to see a bird singing in human language. The king believed that it was Sandrembi, so he kept it in a small cage. While the king was away for hunting Chaisra killed the dove and cooked it. The king was furious and told her to throw it away. Chaisra threw it and a beautiful mango tree started to grow on the spot and it bore only one fruit.

The gardener plucked the fruit. He looked for a knife to cut the mango but he could not find it. The following day, with knife in hand, he looked for the mango but he could not find the mango. On the eighth day, the mango turned into a beautiful lady and he found that she was none other than Sandrembi. The king ordered Sandrembi and Chaisra to fight a duel. Sandrembi killed Chaisra. Thus, Sandrembi was reunited with the king.