



Lesson: 10

The Mark of Vishnu

SOLUTIONS:

COMPREHENSION:-

i. Who was Kala Nag?

Ans: Kala Nag was a King Cobra.

ii. What made Gunga Ram believe that Kala Nag drank the milk?

Ans: Every night he leaves a saucer of milk outside the hole near the wall and it was gone the next morning. This made Gunga Ram believe that Kala Nag drank the milk.

iii. What was the youngsters' view regarding snake drinking milk?

Ans: According to them snakes don't drink milk. They have been informed by their teacher that snake eats only once in several days.

iv. Why does the narrator say it was no use arguing with Gunga Ram?

Ans: The narrator say it was no use arguing with Gunga Ram because like all good Hindu, he believed in the Trinity of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva, the creator, preserver and destroyer of these he was most devoted to Vishnu and every morning he smeared his forehead with a V mark in sandalwood paste to honour the deity. Although a Brahmin, he was illiterate and full of superstition. To him all life was scared, even if it was of a serpent or scorpion or centipede.

v. Why did not Ganga Ram like the youngsters' ways?

Ans: Gunga Ram did not like the youngsters' way because they were constantly belittling him with their new – fangled ideas. They never read their scripture nor even what the Mahatama said about non-violence. They talked of shotgun to kill birds and the jars of methyated spirit to drown snake.

vi. Describe the condition that led Kala Nag come out of its hole?

Ans: The monsoon had burst with all its fury and it had rained in the night. The earth which had lain parched and dry under the withering heat of the summer sun was teeming with life and the rain had flooded Kala Nag's hole. So it came out and sat in an open patch on the lawn.

vii. How was Kala Nag Caught?

Ans: Since the rain had flooded its hole Kala Nag came out of his hole and sat in an open patch on the lawn. The children decided to get him and armed with long bamboo sticks, they surrounded Kala Nag. When he saw them his eyes turned fiery red and hiss and spat on all sides and made for the banana grove. But the ground was too muddy and he slid along and then a stick caught him in the middle and broke his back. A volley of blows reduced him to a shapeless mass of black and white smeared with blood and mud. Then they slid a bamboo stick under the cobra's belly, lifted him and put him in a large biscuit tin and tied it up with string.

viii. Why did the youngster tell that Kala Nag would not need any milk?

Ans: The youngster told that Kala Nag would not need any milk because they have already caught and injured him and had put him inside a large biscuit tin and had hidden it under a bed.

ix. Why did Gunga Ram look sullen?

Ans: Gunga Ram looks sullen because he found the saucer with milk still in it the next day.

x. What did Kala Nag do when the teacher opened the box?

Ans: As soon as the cord around the box was loosened the lid flew into the air just missing the teacher's nose. Kala Nag came out and with a loud hiss he went for the teacher's face.

xi. What did Gunga Ram do to the fleeing snake?

Ans: As soon as Gunga Ram saw Kala Nag he went down on his knees. He poured the milk into saucer and placed it near the threshold and with hands folding in prayer he bowed his head to the ground craving for forgiveness.

xii. Describe the sad end of Gunga Ram?

Ans: Kala Nag was already excited and hurt. His back was broken in several places and he dragged himself painfully to the door to made a bit for freedom. But when Gunga Ram went down on his knees and bowed his head to the ground near the threshold, the snake in desperate fury hissed and spat and bit Gunga Ram all over the head. Gunga Ram collapsed with his hand covering his face and groaned in agony. The poison blinded him instantly and within a few minutes he turned pale and blue and forth appeared in his mouth. On his forehead were little drops of blood which the teacher wiped with his handkerchief. Underneath was V mark where the Kala Nag had dug his fangs. Thus Gunga Ram died of the poison from the cobra, Kala Nag.



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