

UNIT 10

The Three Questions

تین سوالات

Pre-reading

- If you could always know the perfect time to act, the most important thing to do, and the right people to listen to, how might that change your life?

Ans. It might make my life easier and more successful. I would use my time wisely to make better decisions, refrain from mistakes, and avoid unconcerned people.

- What qualities do you think a wise person should have? Why might people seek advice from someone considered wise?

Ans. A wise person should be thoughtful, experienced and patient. People seek advice from such a person because they trust their judgment and expect proper guidance.

Vocabulary Table

Sr.	Word	Pronunciation	POS	Synonyms	Meaning
1	certain	/ˈsɜːr.tən/	adj	definite, particular	متعین، مخصوص
2	reward	/rɪˈwɔːrd/	n / v	prize, award	انعام
3	declared	/dɪˈkleərd/	v	announced, stated	اعلان کیا
4	pastimes	/ˈpɑːs.taɪmz/	n	hobbies, amusements	تفریحات
5	attentive	/əˈten.tɪv/	adj	careful, watchful	چوکنا
6	happen	/ˈhæp.ən/	v	occur, take place	واقع ہونا
7	magician	/məˈdʒɪ.ən/	n	sorcerer, wizard	جادوگر
8	necessary	/ˈnes.ə.ser.i/	adj	essential, needed	ضروری
9	renowned	/rɪˈnaʊnd/	adj	famous, well-known	مشہور
10	dismounted	/dɪsˈmaʊn.tɪd/	v	got off, descended	اترا
11	greeted	/ˈgriː.tɪd/	v	welcomed, saluted	استقبال کیا
12	affairs	/əˈfæəz/	n	matters, concerns	معاملات
13	recommenced	/ˌriː.kəˈmenst/	v	restarted, resumed	دوبارہ شروع کیا
14	digging	/ˈdɪg.ɪŋ/	v	excavating	کھودنا
15	spade	/speɪd/	n	shovel	پھاؤڑا
16	moaning	/ˈmoʊ.nɪŋ/	v	groaning, crying	کراہنا
17	unfastened	/ʌnˈfæs.ənd/	v	opened, loosened	کھولا
18	bandage	/ˈbændɪdʒ/	n / v	dressing, wrap	پٹی
19	revived	/rɪˈvaɪvd/	v	recovered, restored	ہوش میں آیا
20	threshold	/ˈθref.həʊld/	n	doorway, entrance	دہلیز
21	gazing	/ˈgeɪ.zɪŋ/	v	staring, peering	گھورنا
22	executed	/ˈek.sɪ.kjuː.tɪd/	v	killed	سزائے موت دی
23	ambush	/ˈæm.bʊʃ/	n / v	trap, surprise attack	گھات
24	escaped	/ɪˈskeɪpt/	v	ran away, fled	بھاگ نکلا
25	crouching	/ˈkraʊ.tʃɪŋ/	v	bending, stooping	جھک کر بیٹھنا
26	repented	/rɪˈpen.tɪd/	v	felt sorry, regretted	پچھمتایا
27	alone	/əˈloʊn/	adj/ adv	solely, only	اکيلا

English Text with Urdu Translation

English Text	Urdu Translation
1. It once occurred to a certain king, that if he always	1۔ ایک دفعہ ایک خاص بادشاہ کو خیال آیا کہ اگر وہ ہمیشہ ہر چیز

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knew the right time to begin everything, if he knew who were the right people to listen to, and who to avoid, and, above all, if he always knew what was the most important thing to do, he would never fail in anything he might undertake.	شروع کرنے کا ٹھیک وقت جان لے، اگر وہ جان لے کہ ٹھیک لوگ کون سے ہیں جنہیں غور سے سنا جائے اور کون سے بچا جائے، اور، سب سے بڑھ کر، اگر وہ ہمیشہ جان لے کہ کرنے کی سب سے اہم ترین چیز کیا ہے، تو وہ ذرے لے گا میں کبھی بھی ناکام نہیں ہو گا۔
2. And this thought having occurred to him, he had it proclaimed throughout his kingdom that he would give a great reward to anyone who would teach him what was the right time for every action, and who were the most necessary people, and how he might know what was the most important thing to do.	2- اور یہ خیال آنے کے بعد، اس نے اس کی پوری بادشاہت میں اعلان کروایا کہ وہ کسی بھی ایک بڑا انعام دے گا جو اسے سکھائے کہ ہر کام کا ٹھیک وقت کون سا ہے، سب سے ضروری لوگ کون سے ہیں، اور وہ کیسے معلوم کر سکتا ہے کہ کرنے کی اہم ترین چیز کیا ہے۔
3. And learned men came to the King, but they all answered his questions differently.	3- اور پڑھے لکھے لوگ بادشاہ کے پاس آئے لیکن سب نے اس کے سوالوں کے مختلف جواب دیے۔
4. In reply to the first question, some said that to know the right time for every action, one must draw up in advance a table of days, months, and years, and must live strictly according to it. They said in way everything could be done at its proper time.	4- پہلے سوال کے جواب میں کچھ نے کہا کہ ہر کام کا ٹھیک وقت جاننے کے لیے، پہلگی سے دنوں، مہینوں اور سالوں کا ایک جدول ضرور بنالینا چاہیے، اور ضرور اس کے مطابق زندگی گزارنی چاہیے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ یوں ہر کام مناسب وقت پر کیا جاسکتا ہے۔
5. Others declared that it was impossible to decide beforehand the right time for every action, but that, not letting oneself be absorbed in idle pastimes. One should always attend to all that was going on, and then do what was most needful.	5- دوسروں نے اعلان کیا کہ ہر کام کے لیے پہلے سے ٹھیک وقت کا فیصلہ کرنا ناممکن ہے، لیکن کسی کو اپنے آپ کو فضول مشاغل میں مصروف رہنے کی اجازت نہیں دینی چاہیے۔ کسی کو ہر وہ سب سے اس کی طرف ہمیشہ توجہ دینی چاہیے، اور پھر جو سب سے ضروری ہو وہ کرے۔
6. Others, again, said that however attentive the King might be to what was going on, it was impossible for one man to decide correctly the right time for every action. He should have a Council of wise men, who would help him to fix the proper time for everything.	6- اوروں نے پھر کہا کہ جو ہو رہا ہے اس کی طرف بادشاہ جتنا بھی متوجہ ہو، ایک آدمی کے لیے ہر کام کا ٹھیک وقت کا درست فیصلہ کرنا ناممکن ہے۔ اسے عقل مند آدمیوں کی ایک شوری رکھنی چاہیے، جو ہر چیز کا مناسب وقت مقرر کرنے میں اس کی مدد کرے۔
7. But then again others said there were some things which could not wait to be laid before a Council, but about which one had at once to decide whether to undertake them or not. But in order to decide that, one must know beforehand what was going to happen. It is only magicians who know that; and therefore, in order to know the right time for every action, one must consult magicians.	7- لیکن پھر دوسروں نے کہا کہ کچھ چیزیں ہوتی ہیں جنہیں شوری کے سامنے رکھنے کے لیے انتظار نہیں کیا جاسکتا، بلکہ جن کے بارے میں کسی کو فوراً فیصلہ کرنا پڑتا ہے کہ آیا انہیں اٹھایا جائے یا نہ لیا جائے۔ لیکن اس فیصلے کے لیے، کسی کو پہلے سے جاننا ضروری ہے کہ کیا ہونے والا ہے۔ یہ صرف جادو گر جانتے ہیں؛ اور اس لیے، ہر کام کا ٹھیک وقت جاننے کے لیے، کسی کو ضرور جادوگروں سے مشاورت کرنی چاہیے۔
8. Equally various were the answers to the second question. Some said, the people, the King most needed were his councilors; others, the priests; others, the doctors; while some said the warriors were the most necessary.	8- دوسرے سوال کے جواب بھی اتنے ہی مختلف تھے۔ کچھ نے کہا کہ لوگ جن کو بادشاہ کو سب سے زیادہ ضرورت ہے وہ اس کے مشیران ہیں؛ دیگر نے پادریوں کو، اور اکثر نے ڈاکٹروں کو، جبکہ بعض نے جنگجوؤں کو سب سے زیادہ ضروری کہا۔
9. To the third question, as to what was the most important occupation, some replied that the most important thing in the world was science. Others said it was skill in warfare; and others, religious worship.	9- تیسرے سوال کے جواب میں کہ اہم ترین کام کیا ہے، کچھ نے جواب دیا کہ دنیا میں اہم ترین چیز سائنس ہے۔ دوسروں نے کہا کہ وہ عملی جنگی مہارت ہے؛ اور دیگر نے مذہبی عبادت۔
10. All the answers being different, the King agreed with none of them, and gave the reward to none. But still wishing to find the right answers to his questions, he decided to consult a hermit, widely renowned for his wisdom.	10- تمام جوابوں کے مختلف ہونے کی وجہ سے بادشاہ ان میں سے کسی سے اتفاق نہ کر سکا، اور کسی کو بھی انعام نہ دیا۔ لیکن پھر بھی اپنے سوالات کے ٹھیک جوابات پانے کی خواہش رکھتے ہوئے، اس نے ایک راہب جو اپنی دانائی کی وجہ سے بہت مشہور تھا، سے مشاورت کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا۔
11. The hermit lived in a wood which he never quitted, and he received none but common folk. So, the King put on simple clothes, and before reaching the hermit's cell dismounted from his horse, and, leaving his bodyguard behind, went on alone.	11- وہ راہب ایک جنگل میں رہتا تھا جسے وہ کبھی نہیں چھوڑتا تھا، اور وہ عام لوگوں کے علاوہ کسی سے نہ ملتا تھا۔ لہذا بادشاہ نے سادہ کپڑے پہنے اور راہب کی کٹھری تک پہنچنے سے پہلے اپنے گھوڑے سے اتر ا، اور اپنے محافظوں کو چھوڑ کر اکیلا آگے چل دیا۔

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12. When the King approached, the hermit was digging the ground in front of his hut. Seeing the King, he greeted him and went on digging. The hermit was frail and weak, and each time he stuck his spade into the ground and turned a little earth, he breathed heavily.	12۔ جب بادشاہ راہب کے قریب پہنچا تو راہب اپنی جموئیڑی کے سامنے زمین کھود رہا تھا۔ بادشاہ کو دیکھ کر اس نے استقبال کیا اور کھدائی کرتا رہا۔ راہب ناتواں اور کمزور تھا، اور ہر بار جب وہ بیلچہ زمین پر مارتا اور تھوڑی مٹی الٹتا، تو وہ زور سے سانس لیتا۔
13. The King went up to him and said: "I have come to you, wise hermit, to ask you to answer three questions: — How can I learn to do the right thing at the right time? — Who are the people I most need, and to whom should I, therefore, pay more attention than to the rest? — And, what affairs are the most important, and need my first attention?"	13۔ بادشاہ اس کے پاس گیا اور کہا: "دانا راہب، میں آپ کے پاس آیا ہوں تاکہ آپ سے تین سوالوں کے جواب دینے کی درخواست کر سکوں: — میں ٹھیک وقت پر ٹھیک کام کیسے سیکھ سکتا ہوں؟ — کن لوگوں کی مجھے سب سے زیادہ ضرورت ہے اور اس لیے مجھے دوسروں کی نسبت زیادہ توجہ دینی چاہیے؟ — اور کون سے معاملات اہم ترین ہیں اور میری اولین توجہ چاہتے ہیں؟"
14. The hermit listened to the King, but answered nothing. He just spat on his hand and recommenced digging.	14۔ راہب نے بادشاہ کو سنا لیکن جواب نہ دیا۔ اس نے بس اپنے ہاتھ پر تھوکا اور دوبارہ کھدائی شروع کر دی۔
15. "You are tired," said the King, "let me take the spade and work awhile for you".	15۔ "آپ تھک گئے ہیں،" بادشاہ نے کہا، "مجھے بیلچہ لینے دیں اور تھوڑی دیر کے لیے کام کرنے دیں۔"
16. "Thanks!" said the hermit, and, giving the spade to the King, he sat down on the ground.	16۔ "شکریہ!" راہب نے کہا، اور بیلچہ بادشاہ کو دے کر زمین پر بیٹھ گیا۔
17. When he had dug two beds, the King stopped and repeated his questions. The hermit again gave no answer, but rose, stretched out his hand for the spade, and said: "Now rest awhile — and let me work a bit."	17۔ جب اس نے دو کباریاں کھود لیں تو بادشاہ رک گیا اور اپنے سوالات دہرائے۔ راہب نے پھر کوئی جواب نہ دیا، بلکہ اٹھا، بیلچے کے لیے اپنا ہاتھ بڑھایا اور کہا، "اب تھوڑی دیر آرام کرلو — اور مجھے تھوڑا کام کرنے دو۔"
18. But the King did not give him the spade, and continued to dig. One hour passed, and another. The sun began to sink behind the trees and the King at last stuck the spade into the ground, and said: "I came to you, wise man, for an answer to my questions. If you can give me none, tell me so, and I will return home."	18۔ لیکن بادشاہ نے اسے بیلچہ نہ دیا اور کھودنا جاری رکھا۔ ایک گھنٹہ گزر گیا، اور ایک اور۔ سورج نے درختوں کے پیچھے ڈوبنا شروع کر دیا اور آخر بادشاہ نے بیلچہ زمین میں گاڑ دیا اور کہا: "دانا آدمی، میں آپ کے پاس اپنے سوالوں کے جواب کے لیے آیا تھا۔ اگر آپ مجھے کوئی نہیں دے سکتے تو مجھے بتا دیجیے، اور میں گھر واپس لوٹ جاؤں گا۔"
19. "Here comes someone running," said the hermit, "let us see who it is."	19۔ "ادھر کوئی دوڑتے ہوئے آ رہا ہے،" راہب نے کہا، "چلو ہم دیکھیں وہ کون ہے۔"
20. The King turned round and saw a bearded man come running out of the wood. The man held his hands pressed against his stomach, and blood was flowing from under them. When he reached the King, he fell fainting on the ground, moaning feebly. The King and the hermit unfastened the man's clothing. There was a large wound in his stomach.	20۔ بادشاہ نے پیچھے مڑ کر دیکھا اور ایک داڑھی والا آدمی کو جنگل سے دوڑتا ہوا آتے دیکھا۔ آدمی نے اپنا ہاتھ اپنے معدے پر دبا رکھے تھے، اور ان کے نیچے سے خون بہہ رہا تھا۔ جب وہ بادشاہ تک پہنچا، وہ بے ہوش ہو کر زمین پر گر گیا۔ بادشاہ اور راہب نے آدمی کا کالباس کھولا۔ اس کے معدے پر ایک بڑا زخم تھا۔
21. The King washed it as best he could, and bandaged it with his handkerchief and with a towel the hermit had. But the blood would not stop flowing. The King again and again removed the bandage soaked with warm blood, and washed and rebandaged the wound.	21۔ بادشاہ نے اسے اتنا بہترین دھوسکتا تھا دھو یا، اور اس پر اپنے رومال اور راہب کے پاس موجود تولیے سے پٹی باندھی۔ لیکن خون بند نہ ہوا تھا۔ بادشاہ بار بار خون میں بھیگی ہوئی پٹی اتارتا، زخم کو دھوتا اور دوبارہ پٹی باندھتا۔
22. When at last the blood ceased flowing, the man revived and asked for something to drink. The King brought fresh water and gave it to him.	22۔ جب آخر کار خون نے بہنا بند کر دیا تو آدمی ہوش میں آیا اور اسے پینے کے لیے کچھ مانگا۔ بادشاہ تازہ پانی لایا اور اسے دیا۔
23. Meanwhile the sun had set, and it became cool. So, the King, with the hermit's help, carried the wounded man into the hut and laid him on the bed. The man closed his eyes and lay quiet; but the King was so tired with his walk and with the work he had done that he crouched down on the threshold, and also fell asleep — so soundly that he slept all through the short summer night.	23۔ اس دوران سورج غروب ہو چکا تھا اور ٹھنڈ ہو گئی تھی۔ لہذا بادشاہ راہب کی مدد سے زخمی آدمی کو جموئیڑی کے اندر لے آیا اور اسے بستر پر لٹا دیا۔ آدمی نے اپنی آنکھیں بند کر لیں اور خاموش پڑا رہا، لیکن بادشاہ اپنے چلنے اور کام کیے ہوئے کام کی وجہ سے اتنا تھکا ہوا تھا کہ وہ دہلیز پر جمک کر بیٹھ گیا اور سو بھی گیا — اتنا گہرا کہ وہ گرمیوں کی مختصر ساری رات سویا رہا۔
24. When he awoke in the morning, it was long before he	24۔ جب وہ صبح جاگا تو اسے یاد کرنے میں کافی دیر لگی کہ وہ کہاں

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could remember where he was, or who was the strange bearded man on the bed and gazing intently at him with shining eyes.	ہے، یا بستر پر لیٹا ہوا اور چمکتی آنکھوں سے اسے قہراً گھورنے والا اجنبی داڑھی والا آدمی کون ہے۔
25. "Forgive me!" said the bearded man in a weak voice, when he saw that the King was awake and was looking at him.	25۔ "مجھے معاف کر دیں!" داڑھی والے آدمی نے کمزور آواز میں کہا، جب اس نے دیکھا کہ بادشاہ جاگ چکا ہے اور اسے دیکھ رہا ہے۔
26. "I do not know you, and have nothing to forgive you for," said the King.	26۔ "میں تمہیں نہیں جانتا اور تمہیں معاف کرنے کی کوئی وجہ نہیں رکھتا،" بادشاہ نے کہا۔
27. "You do not know me, but I know you. I am that enemy of yours who swore to revenge himself on you, because you executed his brother and seized his property. I knew you had gone alone to see the hermit, and I resolved to kill you on your way back. But the day passed and you did not return. So, I came out from my ambush to find you, and I came upon your bodyguard, and they recognized me, and wounded me. I escaped from them, but should have bled to death had you not dressed my wound. I wished to kill you, and you have saved my life. Now, if I live, and if you wish it, I will serve you as your most faithful slave, and will bid my sons do the same. Forgive me!"	27۔ "آپ مجھے نہیں جانتے لیکن میں آپ کو جانتا ہوں۔ میں آپ کا وہ دشمن ہوں جس نے آپ سے انتقام لینے کی قسم کھائی تھی، کیونکہ آپ نے اس کے بھائی کو سزائے موت دی اور اس کی جائیداد ضبط کر لی تھی۔ مجھے معلوم ہوا کہ آپ راہب سے ملنے اکیلے گئے ہیں، اور میں نے آپ کو واپسی کے راستے پر قتل کرنے کا عزم کیا تھا۔ لیکن دن گزر گیا اور آپ واپس نہ آئے۔ لہذا میں اپنی گھات سے آپ کو ڈھونڈنے کے لیے باہر نکلا، اور آپ کے محافظوں سے آ ٹکرایا، اور انہوں نے مجھے پہچان لیا، اور مجھے زخمی کر دیا۔ میں ان سے بھاگ نکلا، لیکن اگر آپ نے میرے زخم پر پٹی نہ باندھی ہوتی تو میں خون بہا کر مر گیا ہوتا۔ میں نے آپ کو قتل کرنا چاہا تھا اور آپ نے میری جان بچائی ہے۔ اب، اگر میں زندہ رہوں، اور اگر آپ چاہیں تو میں آپ کی سب سے وفادار غلام کی حیثیت سے آپ کی خدمت کروں گا، اور اپنے بیٹوں کو بھی یہی حکم دوں گا۔ مجھے معاف کر دیں!"
28. The King was very glad to have made peace with his enemy so easily, and to have gained him for a friend. He not only forgave him, but said he would send his servants and his own physician to attend him, and promised to restore his property.	28۔ بادشاہ اپنے دشمن کے ساتھ اتنی آسانی سے صلح کرنے اور اسے دوست بنانے پر بہت خوش ہوا۔ اس نے نہ صرف اسے معاف کر دیا بلکہ کہا کہ وہ اپنے نوکروں اور اپنے ذاتی معالج کو اس کا خیال رکھنے کے لیے بھیجے گا، اور اس کی جائیداد بحال کرنے کا وعدہ کیا۔
29. Having taken leave of the wounded man, the King went out into the porch and looked around for the hermit. Before going away he wished once more to beg an answer to the questions he had put.	29۔ زخمی آدمی سے اجازت لینے کے بعد بادشاہ باہر ڈیلیز پر آیا اور راہب کو ڈھونڈا۔ دور جانے سے پہلے وہ ایک بار پھر اپنے سوالوں کا جواب مانگنا چاہتا تھا۔
30. The hermit was outside, on his knees, sowing seeds in the beds that had been dug the day before. The King approached him, and said: "For the last time, I pray you to answer my questions, wise man."	30۔ راہب باہر اپنے گھٹنوں کے بل اُن کیاریوں میں بیج بوری رہا تھا جنہیں کل کھودا گیا تھا۔ بادشاہ اس کے قریب گیا اور کہا: "دانا آدمی، میں آخری بار آپ سے اپنے سوالوں کا جواب دینے کی التجا کرتا ہوں۔"
31. "You have already been answered!" said the hermit, still crouching on his thin legs, and looking up at the King, who stood before him.	31۔ "تمہیں پہلے ہی جواب مل چکا ہے!" راہب نے اپنی اب بھی اپنی پتلی ٹانگوں پر جمکے ہوئے اور اوپر بادشاہ جو اس کے سامنے کھڑا تھا کی طرف دیکھتے ہوئے کہا۔
32. "How answered? What do you mean?" asked the King.	32۔ "کیسے جواب ملا؟ آپ کا کیا مطلب ہے؟" بادشاہ نے پوچھا۔
33. "Do you not see," replied the hermit. "If you had not pitied my weakness yesterday, and had not dug these beds for me, but had gone your way, that man would have attacked you, and you would have repented of not having stayed with me. Therefore, the most important time was when you were digging the beds; and I was the most important man; and to do me good was your most important business. Afterwards, when that man ran to us, the most important time was when you were attending to him; for if you had not bound up his wounds, he would have died without having made peace with you. So, he was the most important man, and what you did for him was your most important business."	33۔ "کیا تم نہیں سمجھتے؟" راہب نے جواب دیا۔ "اگر تم نے کل میری کمزوری پر رحم نہ کیا ہوتا، اور میرے لیے یہ کیاریاں نہ کھودی ہوتیں، بلکہ اپنی راہ چلے جاتے، تو وہ آدمی تم پر حملہ کرتا، اور تم میرے ساتھ نہ رہنے پر پچھتاتے۔ اس لیے اہم ترین وقت وہ تھا جب تم کیاریاں کھود رہے تھے؛ اور میں اہم ترین شخص تھا؛ اور میرے ساتھ نیکی کرنا تمہارا اہم ترین کام تھا۔ اس کے بعد، جب وہ آدمی ہماری طرف دوڑا، اہم ترین وقت وہ تھا جب تم اس کا خیال رکھ رہے تھے؛ کیونکہ اگر تم نے اس کے زخموں پر بغیر پٹی باندھے بغیر تمہارے ساتھ صلح کیے بغیر مر گیا ہوتا۔ لہذا وہ اہم ترین شخص تھا، اور جو تم نے اس کے لیے کیا وہ تمہارا اہم ترین کام تھا۔"
34. "Remember then: there is only one time that is important — Now! It is the most important time because it is the only time when we have any power. The most	34۔ "پھر یاد رکھیں: صرف ایک ہی وقت ہے جو اہم ہے — اب! یہ اہم ترین وقت ہے کیونکہ یہ واحد وقت ہے جب ہمارے پاس کوئی طاقت ہے۔ سب سے ضروری وہ شخص ہے جس کے ساتھ آپ ہیں،

English Text	Urdu Translation
necessary person is the one with whom you are, for no man knows whether he will ever have dealings with anyone else. And the most important affair is to do him good, because for that purpose alone was the man sent into this life."	کیونکہ کوئی شخص نہیں جانتا کہ آیا اس کے کبھی کسی سے معاملات ہوں گے۔ اور اہم ترین معاملہ اس کے ساتھ نیکی کرنا ہے، کیونکہ صرف اسی مقصد کے لیے انسان کو اس حیات میں بھیجا گیا تھا۔"

Box Questions

► What different suggestions were given to the King about how to determine the right time for every action?

Ans. Different people gave different suggestions: some said to follow a fixed timetable, others advised to stay attentive and act as needed, some suggested taking help from wise men, and a few recommended consulting the magicians to know the right time.

► What three questions did the King ask the wise hermit?

Ans. The King asked him how to do the right thing at the right time, who were the most important people, and which affairs needed his first attention.

► What did the King do after helping the hermit carry the wounded man into the hut?

Ans. After helping the hermit carry the wounded man into the hut, the King crouched down on the threshold and fell into a deep sleep due to tiredness.

► How did the hermit explain what the most important time, person, and action were?

Ans. The hermit explained that the most important time is now, the most important person is the one you are with, and the most important action is to do good with him.

Glossary

Sr.	Word	Meaning
1	alone	solely, only, without others
2	attentive	careful, paying attention
3	certain	definite, particular, sure
4	crouching	bending, stooping
5	digging	excavating, making holes
6	escaped	fled, ran away
7	executed	killed, carried out
8	gazing	staring, looking steadily
9	greeted	welcomed, said hello
10	happen	occur, take place
11	necessary	essential, important
12	repented	regretted, felt sorry
13	revived	restored, brought back
14	reward	prize, award
15	spade	shovel, a digging tool
16	threshold	doorstep, entrance
17	unfastened	opened, untied
18	wounded	injured, damaged

Reading and Critical Thinking

A. Answer the following questions:

Question	Answer
1. What three questions did the king want to find answers to?	Ans. The Three Questions: The king wanted to find answers to these questions:- i. What was the right time to begin everything? ii. Who were the right people to listen to, and who to avoid? iii. What was the most important thing to do?
2. Why did the king first turn to the learned men in his kingdom?	Ans. The king first turned to the learned men in his kingdom because they were educated and considered wise. He believed that their knowledge and experience would help him find the correct answers.
3. Why was the king dissatisfied with the answers he received from the learned men?	Ans. The king was dissatisfied with the answers he received from the learned men because they gave him different and conflicting answers. None of them could clearly solve his problem or satisfy him.
4. Who did the king decide to visit after the learned men could not help him?	Ans. The king decided to visit a hermit when the learned men could not help him. The hermit lived alone in a forest and was famous for his wisdom. He had deep understanding of life.
5. How did the hermit respond when the king asked him the three questions?	Ans. When the king asked him the three questions, the hermit did not answer immediately. He just listened to the king, spat on his hand and continued digging, showing that actions were more important than words.

Exercise MCQs

B. Choose the correct option.

Sr.	Statements	A	B	C	D
1	Who wanted answers to three important questions?	farmer	king ✓	hermit	soldier
2	Whom did the king first ask for advice?	magicians	hermit	learned men ✓	soldiers
3	Who did the king finally visit for wisdom?	doctor	hermit ✓	priest	farmer
4	What was the hermit doing when the king arrived?	reading	digging ✓	sleeping	praying
5	Whom did the king save?	enemy ✓	lawyer	philosopher	hermit

Analyzing a Variety of Readings:

C. Here is some information to remember, and answer the given question based on it.

- Poetry (free verse, narrative, rhythmic)
- Personal Recounts (diary entries, biographies)
- Narratives (fables, historical fiction, science fiction, legends)
- Drama (play scripts)

1. How might a poet answer Tolstoy's question, "When is the right time to do things?" in his / her poem?

Ans. Poem:-

The right time is not tomorrow, Nor the time we wish would come. The right time is now, The moment we stand before another, The moment we can do good, The moment we can heal, help or smile. The clocks may tick, the sun may rise and fall, But what matters is the hand we extend, The heart we touch, The seed we plant today. For life's greatest work is done now, With the person beside us, In the present we hold Important points to ponder over.

2. If you wrote a diary entry today, how would you show who was the "most important person" in your experience, like Tolstoy's lesson?

Ans. Diary Entry:-

Date: 10 November, 2026.

Dear Reader,

Today was a special day. I spent the whole morning volunteering at a local hospital. At first, I thought all the patients were equally important, but then I met Mr. Ahmed, an old man who seemed very lonely and scared.

I realized that he was the most important person at that moment, because he needed my help and attention more than anyone else. I spent time talking to him, helping him eat, and making him feel comfortable. Helping him made me understand Tolstoy's lines: "The most necessary person is the one with whom you are...And the most important affair is to do him good..."

By the end of the day, I felt tired but happy. I learned that even a small act of kindness can make someone's day brighter. Today, I learned to focus on the present moment "now" and the people around me.

Yours truly,

Shoaib

3. How does the main character's journey answer one of Tolstoy's three questions?

Ans. Narrative:-

In a legend about a wise king, the main character's journey teaches us an important lesson about time. The king faced a great danger in his kingdom, but he did not rush into action. Instead, he focused on the present moment, helping the people who needed him most.

Through his journey, he realized that the most important time is now, just like Tolstoy says. Every decision he made carefully in the present prevented disaster and saved his kingdom. By paying attention to those around him and doing them good, he learned that helping others at the right time is the key to success.

Thus, the king's journey answers Tolstoy's first question: "What is the right time to begin everything?" The answer is the present moment — "Now!"

4. How could a character's choices in a play answer Tolstoy's question about "the most important thing to do"?

Ans. Play:-

In a play about a young leader, the main character faces many challenges in leading the community. He must decide whether to attend a meeting, prepare a plan or help someone in need immediately.

By choosing to help a sick villager first, the character demonstrates that the most important thing to do is to help the person who needs you now, just as Tolstoy teaches us. His action shows that no matter how many tasks there are, doing good for the person in front of you is the most important affair.

Thus, through the character's choices, the audience learns that helping others and acting in the present is more important than worrying about the future.

Vocabulary and Grammar

Practise Direct and Indirect Narration:

5. When someone talks to someone else, the very words are used within inverted commas. It is called direct narration.
6. When the same words are said by someone else, a change does take place in three things: tense, place and pronoun. It is called indirect narration.

A. Read the following rules with examples carefully and answer the related questions.

1. Present Tense: In indirect speech, present tense usually changes to past tense, e.g.

Direct: The king said, "I want to find the answers today."

Indirect: The king said that he wanted to find the answers that day.

Q1. Change this into indirect speech: "I need the answers right now," said the king.

Ans. The king said that he needed the answers right then.

2. Past Tense: Past tense in direct speech often shifts further back into past perfect in indirect speech, e.g.

Direct: The hermit said, "You helped the right person yesterday."

Indirect: The hermit said that the king had helped the right person the day before.

Q2. Report this: "You made the right choice yesterday," said the hermit.

Ans. The hermit said that he had made the right choice the day before.

3. Perfect Tense: Perfect tense (has / have + past participle) usually shifts to past perfect, e.g.

Direct: The king said, "I have made many mistakes."

Indirect: The king said that he had made many mistakes.

Q3. Change this to indirect: "I have wasted my time," the king admitted.

Ans. The king admitted that he had wasted his time.

4. Future Tense: Future tense (will / shall) changes into "would / should" in indirect speech, e.g.

Direct: The king said, "I will return tomorrow."

Indirect: The king said that he would return the next day.

Q4. Turn into indirect speech: "I shall ask the hermit again," the king decided.

Ans. The king decided that he would ask the hermit again.

5. Modals (can, may, must etc.): Modals change too (can → could, may → might, must → had to), e.g.

Direct: The hermit said, "You must listen carefully."

Indirect: The hermit said that the king had to listen carefully.

Q5. Report this: "You may find the answer soon," said the hermit.

Ans. The hermit said that he might find the answer soon.

6. Time Changes: Words about time change (now → then, today → that day, tomorrow → the next day etc.), e.g.

Direct: The king said, "I need the answer today."

Indirect: The king said that he needed the answer that day.

Q6. Change into indirect speech: "I will meet you tomorrow," the king promised.

Ans. The king promised that he would meet him the next day.

7. Questions: In reported questions, the sentence structure changes to a statement, and question words (what, why etc.) stay, e.g.

Direct: The king asked, "What is the right time to act?"

Indirect: The king asked what the right time to act was.

Q7. Report this: "Who is the most important person?" the king asked.

Ans. The king asked who the most important person was.

8. Orders: In indirect speech, orders are reported using "told" + "to" + base verb, e.g.

Direct: The king said, "Answer my questions!"

Indirect: The king ordered the hermit to answer his questions.

Q8. Change this to indirect: "Dig the ground for me," the king commanded.

Ans. The king commanded to dig the ground for him.

9. Requests: Requests are reported using "asked" or "requested" + "to" + base verb, e.g.

Direct: The king said, "Please help me find the answer".

Indirect: The king requested the hermit to help him find the answer.

Q9. Report this: "Please forgive me," the enemy said to the king.

Ans. The enemy requested the king to forgive him.

10. Suggestions and Advice: Suggestions or advice are reported using verbs like "suggested", "advised" or "recommended", e.g.

Direct: The hermit said, "You should care for those near you."

Indirect: The hermit advised the king to care for those near him.

Q10. Change to indirect: "You should focus on helping others," the hermit suggested.

Ans. The hermit suggested that he should focus on helping others.

Oral Communication Skills

"Philosopher's Circle"

A./B. Read "The Three Questions" by Leo Tolstoy together in the class, arrange the students in a circle, pose three guiding questions based on the text: Each student must choose one question, state their opinion clearly.

1. When is the best time to do things?

Ans. The Best Time:

According to "The Three Questions" by Leo Tolstoy, the best time to do things is the present moment — "Now!" because it is the only time when we have any power.

2. Who is the most important person?

Ans. The Most Important Person:

According to "The Three Questions" by Leo Tolstoy, the most important person is the one with whom you are, for no man knows whether he will ever have dealings with anyone else.

3. What is the most important thing to do?

Ans. The Most Important Thing:

According to "The Three Questions" by Leo Tolstoy, the most important thing to do is to do good with whom you are, because for that purpose alone is the man sent into this world.

Writing Skills

Summary:

Summarizing or writing a summary means giving a concise overview of a text's main points in your own words. A summary is always much shorter than the original text. There are five key steps that can help you to write a summary:

7. Read the text carefully.
8. Break it down into sections.
9. Identify the key points in each section.
10. Write the summary.
11. Check the summary against the text.

A. Write the summary of "The Three Questions" written by Leo Tolstoy.

Summary: "The Three Questions" by Leo Tolstoy is a short story about a king who wants to live wisely and make right decisions.

A king wishes to find answers to three important questions: when is the right time to do every action, who are the most important people, and what is the most important thing to do. First, he consults the learned men of his kingdom, including the priests, counselors and doctors, but each gives a different answer, so no one satisfies him. Then, he visits a wise hermit, living alone in a forest. The hermit does not answer in words, but through events—especially when a wounded man appears—hence the king learns his lesson. He realizes that the most important time is now, the most important person is the one you are with, and the most important action is to do good for that person.

This story teaches us that practical wisdom comes not from reading, but from helping others, paying attention to the present moment, and acting kindly. By following these lessons, one can lead a meaningful and purposeful life.

Objective Type

Spelling MCQs

(I) Choose the words with correct spellings.

Sr.	A	B	C	D
1	alone ✓	allone	alon	aalone
2	attentive	atentive	attentive ✓	attentiv
3	certain	cirtain	certain	certain ✓
4	cruching	crouching ✓	croushing	crouchingg

Sr.	A	B	C	D
5	digging ✓	diging	deging	dugging
6	ascaped	uscaped	iscaped	escaped ✓
7	exicuted	executed ✓	excecuted	executid
8	gazeing	gasinge	gazin	gazing ✓
9	greetid	greeted ✓	greetud	graeted
10	heppan	happon	happen ✓	hippen
11	necessary ✓	necenary	nessessary	nicessary
12	repunted	repantid	repenteded	repented ✓
13	revived ✓	revivedd	revivd	revifed
14	rewiard	reworrd	reward ✓	rewardd
15	spade ✓	spad	spead	spaid
16	thresold	threshold	threashold	threshold ✓
17	unfastaned	unfastened ✓	unfasteneded	enfastened
18	wonded	woundud	wounded ✓	wounded

Meaning MCQs

(II) Choose the correct meanings of the underlined words.

Sr.	Statements	A	B	C	D
1	A certain king wanted to know the right time to begin everything.	doubtful	lost	particular ✓	hidden
2	The King proclaimed that he would give a great reward.	secret	punishment	problem	prize ✓
3	The King might be attentive to what was going on.	careful ✓	ignorant	lazy	forgetful
4	One must know beforehand what was going to happen.	end	occur ✓	decide	start
5	The warriors were the most necessary.	useless	optional	important ✓	true
6	Warfare means:	peaceful negotiation	fighting or conflict ✓	celebration	friendship
7	He greeted the King.	punished	ignored	welcomed ✓	attacked
8	But the King did not give him the spade.	stick	shovel ✓	sword	rope
9	They unfastened the man's clothing.	washed	pressed	opened ✓	broke
10	The man revived and asked for something to drink.	restored ✓	stood	neglected	sat
11	He crouched down on the threshold.	ground	roof	stool	entrance ✓
12	The man was gazing intently at him.	staring ✓	laughing	smiling	running
13	The King had executed his brother.	ignored	killed ✓	forgotten	avoided
14	I escaped from them.	came	fled ✓	hid	abstained
15	The King took leave of the wounded man.	injured ✓	healthy	old	lazy
16	The hermit was still crouching on his thin legs.	walking	standing	jumping	stooping ✓
17	He would have repented of not having stayed with the hermit.	ignored	celebrated	felt sorry ✓	rejoiced
18	You were digging the beds.	excavating ✓	painting	watching	cleaning
19	Remember then:	add	subtract	divide	recall ✓
20	For that purpose alone was the man sent into this life.	luckily	surely	perhaps	only ✓

Grammar MCQs

(III) Choose the correct option according to grammar.

Sr.	Statements	A	B	C	D
1	The King proclaimed that he ____ give a reward.	will	would ✓	can	shall
2	The King put on simple clothes.	noun	verb	adverb	adjective ✓
3	The King told the hermit that he ____ to ask him three questions.	has come	will come	came	had come ✓
4	The hermit allowed the king to ____ the ground.	digging	dig ✓	digs	dug
5	The King ____ the wounded man.	help	helping	helped ✓	has help
6	The wounded man begged the King to ____ him.	forgave	forgive ✓	forgiving	forgiven
7	The King said that he had nothing to ____ him for.	forgive ✓	forgave	forgiven	forgiving
8	The wounded man said that he ____ from them.	escape	escaped	had escaped ✓	escapes
9	The wounded man said that he ____ to kill him.	wants	wanted ✓	will want	is wanting
10	The hermit said that the most important time ____ now.	are	were	is ✓	had been
11	The hermit said that the most important person ____ the one you are with.	is ✓	are	were	had been
12	The King asked what the most important thing ____ to do.	is	was ✓	were	will be
13	The hermit advised to do good ____ others.	by	from	on	to ✓