

Lesson -13

Virtue Pays

- * What do you know about the Mahabharat?
- * Why were the Pandavas given exile?
- * What difficulties did they face when they were in exile?

Once when the Pandavas, were wandering in the forest, they felt very thirsty. But nowhere could they find water. They began to feel that they would die of thirst. The eldest brother Yudhishthira, a man of truth, then said to his half-brother Nakula, "O! Nakula, son of Madri, climb that tree and look all over the forest and see if there is some water near by; look if there are trees, birds or plants, for they are sure signs of water."



Nakula climbed the tree and saw some plants and greenery at a distance. It appeared as if there was a pool. “Go then Nakula,” said Yudhishtira, “and bring some water for your brothers.”

Nakula set out towards the place and came across a pool of clean water. No sooner did he bend to drink the water than a strong voice cried, “Stop! Do not drink the water till you have obeyed the laws of this pool. No one can drink its water till he has answered the questions I ask. If you take even a drop of water before this, you may die at once.”

Nakula paid no heed to the voice. He had hardly touched the water when he fell dead among the weeds growing near the pond.

Yudhishtira and his brother waited for hours for Nakula but he did not return. Then Yudhishtira sent Sahadeva to find out his brother’s whereabouts.



When Sahadeva reached the pool he saw Nakula lying dead there. He felt very much grieved. He could not weep for his dead brother as his thirst had overpowered his emotions. He knelt down to drink water instead.

“Wait,” cried the voice, “Do not take even one drop of this water until you have answered my questions; if you do so, you will die.”

The prince did not care for the voice and stooped to drink water. He had hardly drunk a little water when he also fell dead. When Sahadeva also failed to return, Yudhishtira sent Arjuna and Bhima. But both met the same fate.

Ultimately Yudhishtira went to the pool. The strange voice cried, “Stop, unless you answer my questions before drinking water you will also die like your brothers. Such is the law of this place.”

It appeared to Yudhishtira as if it was the voice of some divine power. So he said, “Before I answer your questions, pray tell me who you are! Surely you must be from the other world.”

“Yes, you are right,” said the spirit. “I am Yaksha, the spirit of the woods. I rule over this region. I have made a rule that anyone who wants to drink the water of this pool must first answer my questions or he shall die at once.”



“Ask your questions,” said Yudhishtira, “I shall answer them to the best of my ability.” Then Yaksha asked his questions.

- Yaksha : Which is the best road to Heaven?
Yudhishtira : Virtue is the best road to Heaven
Yaksha : Which is the best of virtues?
Yudhishtira : The best virtue is to hate none.
Yaksha : Which is the worst enemy of man?
Yudhishtira : Anger is the worst enemy of man.
Yaksha : Which man is rich and poor at the same time?
Yudhishtira : The man who has much but gives nothing.
Yaksha : How may a poor man become rich?
Yudhishtira : A poor man may become rich by being contented.
Yaksha : What is heavier than the earth and the clouds?
Yudhishtira : The love of parents.
Yaksha : What is the way to be happy?
Yudhishtira : To tell the truth and be kind.
Yaksha : Who is the greatest man of all?

Yudhishtira : One who is unaffected by joy and sorrow.

Then said Yaksha, “O! Prince, you have answered my questions very well. Now you may drink the water. I also give you a boon. Name anyone of your brothers whom I may bring to life again.”

Yudhishtira said, “Let Nakula, the son of Madri, be brought to life.”

“But he is only your half-brother,” said Yaksha “Don't you want your real brothers Bhima and Arjuna to live again? Don't you love them?”

“Yes I love them,” said Yudhishtira. “But I wish that Nakula should come back to life.”

“Why?” asked the Yaksha .

Yudhishtira replied, “I am the son of Kunti and Nakul is the son of Madri. Please bring back Nakul to life so that one son of each mother remains alive.”

Yudhishtira had hardly spoken these words when Yaksha said, “O! Prince, I am Dharma, the God of Justice. I wished to know if you were just. I find that you are really so. I am highly pleased and shall bring all your brothers to life.” Yaksha sprinkled some drops of water on the dead bodies of the four brothers and they came back to life.



EXERCISES

Read and Learn

wander	weeds	stoop	divine	grieve
fate	virtue	heaven	vegetation	boon
half-brother	exile	content	symbol	pool
sprinkle	pay heed	over power	spirit	heed

Word Power

A. Match the words in column A with their meanings in column B.

symbol	an imaginary creature with magic powers
wander	a sign used to represent something
spirit	the plants found in a particular area or environment
vegetation	to walk slowly around without purpose

B. Give one word for the following:

- (i) A small area of still water, especially one that is artificial p_____
- (ii) which is connected with god d_____
- (iii) a wild plant growing where it is not wanted w_____
- (iv) behaviour that shows high moral standards v _____

Comprehension

A) Answer these questions:

1. What did Yudhishtira say to Nakula?
2. What did the voice from the pond say?
3. Did Nakula pay heed to the voice?

4. What were the questions put up by Yaksha? Mention at least four.
5. Which is the best of all virtues?
6. Why did Yudhishtira wish to get back Nakula?
7. How did the four brothers rise to their former selves?
8. What moral do you draw from this story?

B Tick the correct one:

1. Yudhishtira was Nakula's -
 - (a) real brother
 - (b) half brother
 - (c) cousin
2. Sahadeva wept for his -
 - (a) dead brother
 - (b) dead mother
 - (c) dead father
3. Who paid special heed to the strange voice?
 - (a) Arjuna
 - (b) Nakula
 - (c) Yudhishtira
4. Yaksha was highly pleased with -
 - (a) Nakula
 - (b) Yudhishtira
 - (c) Arjuna

Let's Learn

- (i) No one in the world can do exactly what you do.
- (ii) Some people can't do what you can.
- (iii) I was late for school because I couldn't find my pen.
- (iv) You may enter the room now.
- (v) May I borrow your pen?

The modal auxiliary verbs 'can' and 'could' are used to express ability, 'can't' is used to express inability; 'may' or 'might' are used to ask for or express permission. Now, look at the following sentences:

(vi) You can leave after 5 pm.

(vii) Could I come in?

Here 'can' and 'could' are used to express permission.

(viii) There could be more trouble in future.

(ix) It might rain in a day or two.

Here 'could' and 'might' are used to express future possibility.

We can summarise it as

Modal auxiliary can is used for expressing ability

Modal auxiliary can't is used for expressing inability

Modal auxiliary could is used for expressing ability in the past.

Modal auxiliaries can, could and may are used for seeking permission.

Modal auxiliaries can and may are used for expressing possibility

Modal auxiliaries might and could are used for expressing future possibility.

Ability: I can speak English well.

Inability: I can't speak French.

Past ability: I could jump over the wall when I was young.

Permission: You can come in.

Could I borrow your bicycle?

Possibility: He can come tomorrow.

Impossibility: The sky is clear. It can't rain today.

Future possibility: It might rain in a day or two.

A) Fill in the blanks with appropriate modal auxiliary verbs:

(use negative where required)

(i) The weather report says it _____ rain today.

(ii) _____ you read this poem for me, please?

- (iii) He is a liar, what he says _____ be true.
(iv) The new counter _____ open next Monday.
(v) _____ I use your phone?

B) What question will you ask in each of the following situations:

(Use a modal in each sentence)

- (i) You want to have some ice-cream.

_____?

- (ii) You want to know who is on the telephone.

_____?

- (iii) You want to know the time.

_____?

C. Frame sentences with the help of the given information as given in the example:

Nakula was Madri's son.	The Yaksha was a divine spirit.
Bhima was very strong.	Yudhishtira was famous for his justice.
Sahadeva was the youngest Pandava.	Arjun was very good at archery.

Example:

1. Nakul looked all over the forest.
Nakul, who was Madri's son, looked all over the forest.
2. The Yaksha asked many questions.

3. Bhima paid no heed to the strange voice.

4. Arjun was a great warrior.

5. Sahadeva failed to return.

6. Yudhishtira answered all the questions very well.

Let's Talk

Make two groups. One will ask the questions in column A and the other will find the correct answers from column B.

S.No.	A	B
1.	Who was Madri's son?	Virtue is the best road to Heaven.
2.	What was the name of the eldest Pandava?	Anger is the worst enemy of man.
3.	Who was Yaksha?	The man who has much but gives nothing.
4.	Which is the best road to Heaven?	To tell the truth and be kind.
5.	Which is the best of virtues?	Nakula was the son of Madri.
6.	Who is the worst enemy of man?	One who is unaffected by joy and sorrow.
7.	What is the way to be happy?	A poor man may become rich by being contented.
8.	Who is the greatest man?	The best virtue is to hate none.
9.	Which man is rich and poor at the same time?	Yaksha was the spirit of the woods.
10.	How may a poor man become rich?	Yudhishtira was the eldest Pandava.

Let's Read

Here is Yudhishtira's diary. Go through this record and answer the questions given below.

Monday

- 4 pm - We were wandering in the forest.
- 4.05 pm - We felt thirsty.
- 4.30 pm - I ordered Nakula to bring water.
- 4.35 pm - Nakula went to bring water.
- 4.50 pm - He didn't return.
- 5 pm - I ordered Sahadev to find out Nakula.
- 5.15 pm - I waited for Sahadev.
- 5.25 pm - I ordered Arjuna to find out Nakula and Sahdeva.
- 5.45 pm - I ordered Bhima to find them all.
- 6 pm - I myself went to pool.

Q.1 Who was wandering in the forest?

Ans. _____.

Q.2 When were the Pandavas wandering in the forest?

Ans. _____.

Q.3 At what time did they feel thirsty?

Ans. _____.

Q.4 When did Yudhishtira order Nakul to bring water?

Ans. _____.

Q.5 When did Yudhishtira himself go to pool?

Ans. _____.

Let's Write

Read the telephonic conversation and the message given below:

Mohit : Can I talk to Rakesh?

- Mr. Ahuja : Sorry, he has gone to market.
- Mohit : I am his classmate Arjun. Please tell him to call me back when he returns.
- Mr. Ahuja : O.K. But does he have your phone number?
- Mohit : I think so, still note my phone number. It is 6369522.
- Mr. Ahuja : O.K. I'll tell him.
- Mohit : Thank you uncle.

	Message
Date & time	21 Oct. 2006, 5.00 p.m.
Salutation	Rakesh
Content	Your classmate Arjun rang up. He wanted to talk to you. Please call him back. His phone number is 6369522.
Signatory	Daddy

Now read the following telephonic conversation and write the message.

- Reena : May I talk to Nidhi?
- Abha : Sorry, she has gone out for shopping. May I know who is calling?
- Reena : I am her friend Reena. I am celebrating my birthday on 26th Nov. at 7.00 pm at Nirula's at Defence Colony. Please tell her to reach there. I'll drop her back home.
- Abha : O.K. I'll tell her. Is there any other message?
- Reena : Please tell her to confirm by tomorrow.
- Abha : O.K. your message will be conveyed.
Abha was going for her evening classes. So she left a message for Nidhi.

MESSAGE

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Let's do it

Read more stories about greatmen and mythological heroes and tell them in your class. (Ask your teacher to help you.)