

11. The Merchant of Venice

WORKSHEET

1

COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Narendranath, who became famous later as Swami Vivekananda, was born on 12th January 1863. His father was a successful attorney in the High Court of Calcutta (now Kolkata). Swami Vivekananda was proficient in English and Persian, studied the Bible and the poems of the Persian poet Hafiz, and was a great music lover. His mother was intelligent, learned and generous in the Ramayana and the Mahabharata and also fluent in Bengali and English. Naren was deeply influenced by his parents.

Even as a boy, he did meditation and had strange experiences. At the same time, he was naughty and hard to manage. He teased his sisters too. Even at six years, he was a bright little student. When he was seven years old, he joined the Metropolitan Institution founded by Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. His exceptional intelligence was recognised and he was also a favourite with his companions. He invented new games and was interested in several sports like wrestling, rowing, etc.

As Naren grew older, he became more involved in intellectual pursuits. Books, newspapers, public lectures and debates saw him interested. Naren moved with his father to Raipur, returning to Calcutta in 1879. He studied at Presidency College, Calcutta, later joining the institution founded by the Scottish General Missionary Board.

He was restless in his intellectual and his spiritual search; he sought the Ultimate Reality but was governed by rationality in his search. He was initially influenced by the Brahmo Samaj and its intellectual atmosphere, but it failed to satisfy him. In this state of intellectual, spiritual and emotional conflict and confusion, he met Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa. Sri Ramakrishna was the antithesis of Narendranath. He was a poor, orthodox Brahmin priest in the temple of Goddess Kali at Dakshineswar, untouched by western civilisation and with barely any secular learning. When the sceptical seeker, Narendranath, met the saint, it was as if Sri Ramakrishna had found a long-lost dear one. It took the bewildered Naren a little time and a few visits before he was completely won over by the love of Sri Ramakrishna who saw his potential greatness. Reluctantly at first, but finally, Narendra surrendered himself and his life to the great Master.

–Adapted from ‘A Short Life of Swami Vivekananda’ published by Advaita Ashrama

A Answer the following questions.

1. How is Narendranath better known today?

2. Describe Naren's parents briefly.

3. Which school did the little Naren attend?

4. What influenced Naren initially in his search?

5. To whom did Naren surrender?

B Fill in the blanks with suitable words from the passage.

1. Naren's father was a successful _____ at the High Court.
2. His mother was _____, _____ and learned in the _____ and Ramayana.
3. Naren was _____ and hard to _____.
4. Naren was _____ in his intellectual and _____.
5. When the _____ seeker met the _____, it was as if Sri Ramakrishna had found a _____ dear one.

C 'Sri Ramakrishna was the antithesis of Narendranath.' Explain this comment briefly.

GRAMMAR

A Change the following sentences as directed.

1. The cat cleaned its face. It sat on the fence. [Simple sentence]

2. Many people crowded into the hall. They were all dressed in black and white clothes. [Complex sentence]

3. Mr Yadav has bought a new SUV. He does not know how to drive it. [Compound sentence]

4. I had travelled and seen many people and places. I had never seen anyone as daft as Harish. [Complex sentence]

5. Karen has a new hairdo. It is beautiful. [Simple sentence]

6. The news was very startling. She heard it calmly without any reaction. [Complex sentence]

B Rewrite the following sentences as indirect [reported] speech.

1. Papa said, 'Please fetch my glasses, Nitin.'
2. 'Why,' asked the teacher, 'did you come late today?'
3. The shopkeeper said, 'Here's your packet, ma'am,' handing over a large bag to Mrs Henry. 'Thank you,' she replied.
4. 'What a lovely dress!' said Veena when she saw Mili.
5. 'Sit down and keep quiet!' shouted Mr Tarey.

C Write a paragraph of about 150 words on the following.

Slow and steady wins the race.

VOCABULARY AND WRITING

A Using the letters of each word given below, make at least four words.

1. medicinal _____
2. ostensible _____
3. opposite _____
4. moderate _____
5. development _____

B Make sentences with the following clichés.

1. Look before you leap: _____
2. Count your blessings: _____
3. Half a loaf is better than no bread: _____
4. A stitch in time saves nine: _____
5. Never say die: _____

C Fill in prepositional phrases from the box to complete the following sentences.

on the table on this route at the airport in a basket behind the bush
with our friends into the house beside her mother

1. She carried the kitten _____.
2. How far will we travel _____?
3. We will go to the film _____.
4. Please put the glass _____.
5. The ball has rolled _____.
6. The man I saw went _____.
7. Who will be waiting for you _____?
8. Mini walked quietly _____.