Lesson 9: The Foolish Quack, A Folk Tale

This chapter is from the 11th class English book 1 and it has been translated by Swynnerton. We have presented the important questions of this chapter for the intermediate (part 1) FSc FA first year students.

Question Answers

Q: What complaint did the foolish quack make to the camel-men?
He told them that he had applied their technique to cure the goitre of a woman, but instead of recovering she died. He complained that their technique was faulty, and they were fools.

Q: How did the camel-men reply to the foolish quack’s complaint?
One of the camel-men came forward and hit a camel with a stick covered with metal rings. Then he hit the foolish quack with the same stick. The result was that the quack fell unconscious.

Q: What final lesson did the camel-man teach the foolish quack?
The camel-man said to the foolish quack: “What is good for camels is not good for poor old men and women.”

Q: What did the foolish quack realize in the end?
He realized that he should not have gone beyond his limits. He did not know anything about diseases and their treatment, so he should not have posed to be a doctor.

Q: What type of the story is “The Foolish Quack”?
It is an interesting story. It tells how simple people thought in the past. At the same time, it also contains a moral lesson. It teaches us that we should not make false claims.

Q: How did the camel-men cure their camel?
When the camel-men set their camels free to graze, one of them went to a melon-field and started eating melons. Unfortunately, a melon stuck in its throat. The owner saw this and feared that the animal would die. So he rushed to it. He tied a blanket round its neck and hit the place with full force. The melon broke into pieces and the camel swallowed it easily. in this way, this animal was cured.

Q: How did the quack try to cure the old woman?
The quack applied the same method to the swollen neck of the old woman that the camel-men had used to their camel. He thought that every swollen throat could be cured like that. He tied a blanket round the neck of the old woman and hit her with a big hammer. The result was unexpected for the quack. instead of getting Cure, the poor Woman died instantly.

Q: How did the quack come to realize his error?
The quack did not realize his error easily. After killing the old woman by his foolish method of treatment, he went to the next village. There he made the same claim. This time he said that he would not dig the poor patient’s grave. As a result, the villagers refused to take his help. Then he thought for a while and came to the conclusion that...
there was some error in his method of treating such patients. So he returned to the camel-men to seek their advice.

Q: How did the camel-man prove the stupidity of the quack?
One of the camel-men succeeded in teaching the foolish quack that he was a stupid fellow. He lifted a heavy stick covered with iron rings. He then struck a camel with full force. The camel took little notice of it. Then she struck the foolish quack with the same stick. He fell down unconscious. When the quack regained his senses, he complained of the cruel behaviour. The camel-man explained that what was harmless to the animal was fatal for a human being.

Q: What lesson does the story teach?
This story tells us a moral lesson that man must know his limitations. He must not pose what he is not. A man who crosses his limits always suffers a loss. It also shows that a little knowledge is dangerous. Those who know little but claim to be experts bring loss to others as well as to themselves. The third moral is that anything that is good for animals may prove harmful when applied to human beings.

Q: What is a clump of trees?
A clump of a tree is a cluster of trees growing together. They usually grow naturally. It is a very common sight in villages. Such clumps provide shade for the travellers.

Q: What was stuck in the camel’s throat? OR What happened with the camel that was grazing in a field?
The camel that was grazing near the fields of melons went into the field and started eating melons. A melon struck in its throat. It was feared that it might cause its death.

Q: What did the owner do with the camel?
The owner feared that he might lose the animal. So he tied a blanket round its throat and then struck the place with great force. The melon broke into pieces and the camel swallowed it easily.

Q: What did the man do who was watching the proceedings of the camel-man?
He shouldered his bundle and went to the next village. There he claimed that he was a doctor and could cure the disease of the enlarged throat.
Q: What did the quack pretend to cure?
The quack pretended that he was a specialist doctor. In fact, he did not know the A.B.C. of medicine. He claimed that he could cure goitre.

Q: What did the foolish quack do with the old woman suffering from goitre?
He asked the villagers to bring him a blanket and a good-sized mallet. As soon as they were brought, he tied up the woman’s throat and struck the Swollen part with full-force.

Q: What was the result of the cure that the quack applied to the old woman?
The woman was very old and weak. The quack hit her hard with a mallet. She could not bear it. She died instantly.

Q: Which punishment did the villagers inflict on the foolish quack for killing the woman?
They asked him to dig the old woman’s grave. As the ground was very hard and stiff, he made slow progress. When the woman had been buried, the villagers beat him well and let him go.

Q: For whom did the quack dig the grave?
The quack dug the grave for the old woman. She had died because of his wrong treatment. It was a sort of punishment imposed on him by the villagers.

Q: What did the foolish quack do in the next village?
In the next village, the quack also claimed that he was a specialist doctor of goitre. But this time he was a bit more careful. He said that he would not dig the grave if the patient died.

Q: What did the foolish quack say before starting the treatment of his second patient?
He said that he would do his best to cure that disease, but if he killed the patient, he should not be compelled to dig his grave.

Q: Why didn’t the villagers let the quack cure the old man?
The quack said that he would not dig the grave of the old man if he died. The villagers guessed that he was a false doctor. So they did not allow him to treat the old man.
Q: Why did the quack come back to the camel-men?

The quack found that the way of treatment was incorrect. He thought that the camel-men had not shown the right treatment. So he came back to blame them.

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