

CHAPTER – 7
NEW QUESTIONS AND IDEAS

❖ LET'S RECALL

Q. 1 Describe the ways in which the Buddha tried to spread his message to the people.

Answer:

The following ways were used by Buddha to spread his message to the people:

1. He conveyed his teaching in Prakrit language which was very commonly used at the time.
2. He motivated people to think over his messages so people were more involved in his teachings.

Q. 2 Write whether true or false:

- (a) The Buddha encouraged animal sacrifices.
- (b) Sarnath is important because it was the place where the Buddha taught for the first time.
- (c) The Buddha taught that karma has no effect on our lives.
- (d) The Buddha attained enlightenment at Bodh Gaya.
- (e) Upanishadic thinkers believed that the atman and Brahman were ultimately one.

Answer:

- (a) False

Buddha taught people to be kind to animals. He was against the practice of sacrificing animals.

- (b) True

Sarnath is a place in varansi where Buddha taught for the first time after enlightenment. He attained enlightenment at Bodh Gaya.

(c) False

Karma means action or the work we do. Buddha believed that Karma effect our current and next lives.

(d) True

Buddha did meditation for several days under a Peepal (Banyan) tree in Bodh Gaya, where he attained enlightenment.

(e) True

Atman means individual soul whereas Brahman means universal soul. Upnishadic people believed that Atman and Brahman were the same.

Q. 3 What were the questions that Upanishadic thinkers wanted to answer?

Answer:

The Upanishadic thinkers wanted to find answers of following questions:

1. What happens after death?
2. Is there any life after death?
3. Why should sacrifices be performed?
4. Is there something permanent in universe which lasts even after death?

Q. 4 What were the main teachings of the Mahavira?

Answer:

Followings are the main teachings of Mahavira:

1. Person who wishes to know the truth must leave his/her home.

2. One must follow the principle of Ahimsa (Non-violence), very strictly.
3. One must not hurt or kill any other living being as life is dear to all.

❖ LET'S DISCUSS

Q. 5 Why do you think Anagha's mother wanted her to know the story of the Buddha?

Answer:

Anagha was travelling to Varansi on a school trip. Sarnath, a place in varansi is the place where Buddha taught for the first time. After attaining enlightenment in Bodh Gaya he travelled to varansi where he started spreading his teachings. The story and message of Buddha are inspiring hence Anagha's mother wanted her to know the story of Buddha.

Q. 6 Do you think it would have been easy for slaves to join the Sangha? Give reasons for your answer.

Answer:

Everyone except men had to take permission from his/her master before joining sangha. The servants had to take permission from the kings, the wives from their husbands and the slaves from their masters.

It wouldn't have been easy for the slaves to join the sangha because:

1. Slaves had no rights.
2. Slavery was very common and masters were not very kind.
3. Slaves did all kind of tasks for their masters and if slaves joined sangha then who would have worked for their masters.

NOTE: Slave is a person who is the property of another person. A slave has to obey all the commands of master. He has no right as a human.

❖ LET'S DO

Q. 7 Make a list of at least five ideas and questions mentioned in this lesson. Choose three from the list and discuss why you think they are important even today.

Answer:

The Ideas and questions mentioned in the chapter are the following:

Questions

1. Is there a life after death?
2. What was Buddha trying to teach Kisagotami?
3. How did the beggar convince sages to share food with them?

Ideas

4. One should follow the principle of ahimsa.
5. One should renounce worldly pleasure in search of truth.

Discussion:

1. What was Buddha trying to teach Kisagotami?

Explanation: Kishagotami had lost her son so she was taken to Buddha. He asked Kishagotami to get mustard from a house where no one had died. She found no such house. Buddha wanted to convey her that death is a natural thing one must not lose hopes after losing a loved one. This teaching is very important even today.

How did the Beggar convince sages to share food with them?

Explanation: The sages worshipped the universal soul. The beggar proved that he was also a part of universal soul, hence the sages shared food with him. This teaches us that we must respect every living being because we are part of universal soul or Brahman.

2. One should renounce worldly pleasure in search of truth.

Explanation: Both Jainism and Buddhism teaches that, in the search of truth one must reject all worldly pleasures. Buddha believed that life is full of sufferings and unhappiness because of our cravings and desires. Buddha termed it as tanha or thirst.

Q. 8 Find out more about men and women who renounce the world today. Where do they live, what kinds of clothes do they wear, and what do they eat? Why do they renounce the world?

Answer:

Nowadays a lot of people are renouncing the world and wealth in search of truth and peace, a short list is given below.

Name of person who renounced the world	Where do they live?	What kind of clothes do they wear?	What do they eat?	Why did they renounce the world?
Bhanwarlal Doshi (A Delhi based business man)	Monastery	White clothes	vegetables	In search of peace.
Yevgeny Pushenko (A Russian Industrialist)	Monastery	Catholic Monk like clothes	Vegetables	For peace and discipline.
Rhyn Nasser (European Businessman)	Monastery	Buddhist monk like clothes	Vegetables	For learning Kung-fu, a martial art.
Sumit and Deepika Rathod (A millionaire from Madhya Pradesh)	Monastery	White clothes	Vegetables	For peace and love for god.

NOTE: The students are encouraging to search the answer to this question themselves.