## Lesson 4

# IN THE KINGDOM OF FOOLS

A.K. Ramanujan

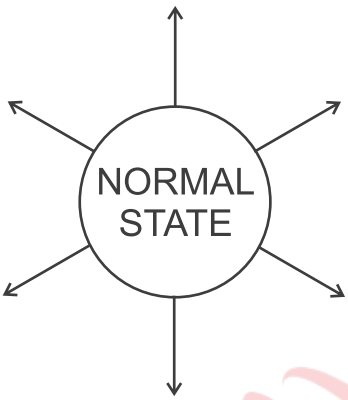
**Value Points**

- In the kingdom of fools the king and his minister were idiots, they changed the day into night and the night into day.
- Anybody who violated the rule would be punished, so people slept during the day and worked at night.
- One day a Guru and his disciple came, they were surprised to see this strange scene. They came to know that they can buy anything for a single duddu.
- The Guru realised that it will be good to leave this place while the disciple remained there.
- One night a thief died when he was stealing as the wall fell on him.
- The incident was investigated and finally the rich merchant was ordered to death by the King.
- The stake did not fit therefore the King ordered to find a fat man for the execution, the soldiers captured the disciple.
- The disciple remembered his Guru and prayed to save him.
- Guru befooled both the King and his minister by saying that whoso ever would die first, he would become the king in the next birth.
- Both the King and the Minister agreed to die. After their death people begged the Guru and his disciple to be their King and Minister.
- They accepted this and announced that now The day would be The day and night would be night and nothing would cost a single duddu.

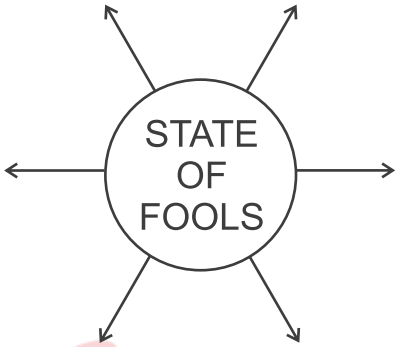
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## ACTIVITY

Difference between a normal State and the State of fools.




Normal State




State of Fools

## COMPREHENSION PASSAGES

### Extract-1

1. "They finally agreed to rule the kingdom of the foolish King and the silly Minister, on the condition that they could change all the old laws."
    1. Who are "they" in the above lines ?
        a) Guru
        b) Disciple
        c) both a and b
        d) none of the above
    2. What happened to the King and his Minister?
        a) They had gone to visit other kingdom.
        b) They had died.
        c) They don't want to rule the kingdom
        d) They had left the kingdom.
    3. What were the old laws of the kingdom?
        a) People slept during the day.
        b) People worked at night.
        c) Anything can be bought for a single duddu.
        d) All of above.
    4. What was the condition?

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a) People will work during the day.
b) People will sleep during the night.
c) Both a and b
d) None of the above.

5. Which among the following is not an adjective
   a) Kingdom
   b) foolish
   c) silly
   d) old

**Extract-2**

2. "We're sick of our ascetic life. It would be nice to enjoy ourselves as King and Minister for a while. Now keep your word, My Lord, and put us to death."
   1. Who is the speaker of the above lines ?
      a) Guru
      b) Disciple
      c) The king
      d) The minister
   2. Who is he talking to?
      a) Guru
      b) Disciple
      c) The king
      d) The minister
   3. What did the speaker demand ?
      a) to be the king
      b) to be the minister
      c) to live an ascetic life
      d) to get the death sentence
   4. Who died by the falling of the wall?
      a) The Mason
      b) The rich merchant
      c) The thief
      d) The dancing girl
   5. What do you mean by the phrase "keep your word"?
      a) fulfil a promise

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b) say a word
c) repeat the word
d) none of the above

**Extract-3**

3. "The two strangers were amazed by what they saw around them and wandered around town till evening, when suddenly the whole town woke up and went about its nightly business."
   1. Name the lesson from where the above passage is taken.
      a) The lost child
      b) The beggar
      c) In the kingdom of fools
      d) The Happy Prince
   2. Who are the 'two strangers'?
      a) The king and the minister
      b) The Guru and the Disciple
      c) The king and the Guru
      d) The Minster and the Disciple
   3. Why were they amazed?
      a) Everyone was working during the day.
      b) Everyone was dancing during the day.
      c) Everyone was sleeping during the day.
      d) None of the above
   4. What is meant by 'nightly business'?
      a) waking up for work at night
      b) doing household work at night
      c) going to fields at night
      d) All of the above
   5. Pick an adjective from the above lines.
      a) amazed
      b) wondered
      c) nightly
      d) strangers

**Extract-4**

4. "The two men were hungry. Now that the shops were open, they went to

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buy some groceries. To their astonishment, they found everything cost the same, a single duddu."

1. Who were the 'two men's here?
   a) The king and the minister
   b) The Guru and the Disciple
   c) The king and the Guru
   d) The Minister and the Disciple
2. Why did they visit the shops?
   a) to buy some groceries
   b) to go for a walk
   c) to meet their friend
   d) to deliver the friend
3. Why were they astonished?
   a) They found that everyone was singing
   b) They found that everyone was dancing
   c) They found that everything was very costly
   d) They found that everything cost the same
4. Who decided to stay in the kingdom of fools?
   a) Guru
   b) Disciple
   c) Both a and b
   d) None of the above
5. Give the synonym for 'surprise' from the passage?
   a) groceries
   b) duddu
   c) astonishment
   d) None of above

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## Short Questions

1. What are the two strange things, the Guru and the disciple find in the kingdom of tools ?

Ans. First was that the day was changed in to night and the night in to day. Second was that everything cost a single duddu.

2. Why does the disciple decide to stay in the kingdom of fools ? Is it a good idea ?

Ans. The disciple was fond of good food and he got everything there at a very low cost. So he decided to stay there. It was not a good idea.

3. Who was the real culprit in the story ? Why does he escape punishment ?

Ans. According to the king, the real culprit is the rich merchant. But he was very thin and could not be executed. Thus, he escaped the punishment.

4. What are the Guru's words of wisdom ? When does the disciple remember them ?

Ans. The Guru told disciple that it was a kingdom of Fools and not a safe place to live in. He remembered these words when he was about to be executed.

5. How does the Guru manage to save his disciple's life ?

ans. The guru told that who would be hanged first, would be the king in the next birth and the second would be the minister. The king listened it. As he was a fool he hanged himself and thus the Guru saved the life of his disciple.

## Long Questions

1. On the basis of your reading give your views – 'Wisdom is worshipped every where when foolishness is our greatest enemy.'
2. As in the story 'In the Kingdom of Fools' due to foolishness of the King and his Minister everything was opposite and abnormal. How can peace and harmony be established in a State?
3. How was life different in the kingdom of fools?
4. The disciple has done nothing wrong. Why was he arrested?
5. Greed leads to grief. Explain this statement in the context of the story, 'In the Kingdom of Fools.'
6. 'Now justice had come in full circle.' Explain.

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