

Unit -1 (A)

Chapter -1 : (WIT AND WISDOM)

The wit that won Hearts

About the Chapter :

This chapter is about a wise and witty poet named Tenali Rama in King Krishnadeva Raya's court. When the king gets upset with his queen over a small matter, Tenali Rama cleverly helps them make peace. His smart thinking brings back happiness to the royal palace.

Important Characters :

King Krishnadeva Raya A powerful and proficient ruler of the Vijayanagara Empire, known for his poetry and pride.

Queen Thirumalambal The kind and respectful queen who unintentionally upsets the king.

Tenali Ramakrishna A witty and wise court poet who cleverly solves the quarrel between the king and queen.

Courtiers and Ministers Though not named individually, they form the background of the story, reacting to the events in the court.

Chapter Summary :

The story begins by introducing the Vijayanagara Empire, a powerful and culturally rich kingdom in South India. It was well known for its achievements in art, architecture and literature. Among its greatest rulers was King Krishnadeva Raya, who ruled from 1509 to 1529 CE. He was not only a brave warrior but also a talented poet and a great supporter of scholars and artists. His reign is often called the Golden Era of the empire.

King Krishnadeva Raya's court was famous for having eight great poets, known as the Ashtadigga) as. Inese poets enriched Telugu literature with their beautiful works. Among them, Tenali Ramakrishna or Tenali Rama, was especially loved for his wit and wisdom. He was not just a poet but also a clever advisor, always ready with smart ideas and solutions.

One day, the king wrote a poem filled with deep and poetic words. He shared it with his ministers but they avoided giving their opinions. Later that evening, he tried to recite it to his queen, Thirumalambal. However, she was tired and unintentionally yawned several times while he spoke. The king misunderstood her yawns as a sign of boredom and disrespect. Feeling insulted, he walked away in anger and stopped speaking to her for days.

The queen, deeply hurt and confused, tried to make peace with the king but failed. At last, she turned to Tenali Rama for help. She explained the whole situation to him with great emotion, hoping he could help her win back the king's affection. Rama listened carefully and promised to help, saying that a thoughtful plan would be needed to fix the matter.

The next day in the royal court, discussions were going on about how to improve paddy farming. After listening to various suggestions, Tenali Rama stepped forward with a plate of paddy seeds. He claimed they were magical seeds that would give three times more crop. Everyone laughed and doubted him. Then Rama cleverly said that the real problem is not with the seeds but with the person who sows them, especially if that person yawns while sowing.

At first, the king was confused by Rama's words. But soon, he understood the hidden message. Rama was referring to the queen's yawning and showing that it was a natural act, not an insult. The king realised that he had taken her action too personally and overreacted. He began to feel sorry for his behaviour.

That evening, the king met the queen and gently apologised for his mistake. The queen happily forgave him and their bond became stronger. The palace, once filled with sadness, was now cheerful again. Tenali Rama, who had smartly solved the problem without blaming anyone, was rewarded by the royal couple with precious gifts. His wit had truly won hearts.

CHAPTER-2 : (Wit and wisdom)

A Concrete Example

 (By Reginald Arkell)

About the Chapter This poem is about the poet's neighbour, Mrs. Jones, who has a garden full of stones and tiny plants. The poet finds her plants so small that he jokes she must plant them with a pin! It is a funny poem that shows how people can love and care for even the smallest things.

Stanza-wise Explanation

Stanza 1

My next-door neighbour, Mrs. Jones, has got a garden full of stones:

A crazy path, a lily pond, a rockery and, just beyond

Explanation The poet talks about his neighbour, Mrs. Jones, who has a garden filled with stones instead of flowers. There's a winding path, a lily pond and a rockery made of small stones. It's not a regular garden and the poet hints that there is more to see beyond this.

Stanza 2

A sundial with a strange device, which Mrs. Jones thinks rather nice.
My next-door neighbour, Mrs. Jones, puts little plants between the stones

Explanation In her garden, there's a sundial with an odd design but Mrs. Jones likes it. She also plants small, delicate plants between the stones. This shows she cares about her garden and adds her personal touch to it.

Stanza 3

They are so delicate and small, they don't mean anything at all.
I can't think how she gets them in, unless she plants them with a pin.

Explanation The poet finds the plants so tiny that they seem to have no meaning or effect. He jokes that they are so small, she must plant them using a pin. This adds humour and shows his surprise at her efforts.

Stanza 4

My next-door neighbour, Mrs. Jones, once asked me round to see her stones.
We stood and talked about a flower, for quite a quarter of an hour.

Explanation One day, Mrs. Jones invites the poet to see her garden. They talk about a flower for 15 minutes, which shows how much she values even the smallest thing in her garden. It also shows her love for gardening.

Stanza 5

"Where is this lovely thing?" I cried., "You're standing on it," she replied.

Explanation After all the talking, the poet asks where the flower is and Mrs. Jones says he's standing on it! The flower was so small that he didn't notice it. This ending adds a funny and surprising twist to the poem.

CHAPTER-3 : (Wit and wisdom)

Wisdom Paves the Way

About the Chapter This drama tells the story of four intelligent young men-Ram Datt, Shiv Datt, Har Datt and Dev Datt-who are seeking work. On their way to Ujjain, they observe clues about a lost camel and when accused of stealing it, they use logic to prove their innocence before the King. The King, impressed by their wisdom, rewards them with positions as royal advisers.

Important Characters

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| (i) Ram Datt One of the four young men | (ii) Shiv Datt Another of the four friends |
| (iii) Har Datt Third among the young men | (iv) Dev Datt The most insightful among the four |
| (iv) The Merchant Owner of the lost camel | (v) The King of Ujjain Wise and just ruler |

Two Sentries Guards who help bring the Merchant and the four young men to the King's court

Chapter Summary

Scene I : The Road to Ujjain

The story begins with four young men-Ram Datt, Shiv Datt, Har Datt and Dev Datt-walking on a dusty road towards the city of Ujjain. They are tired because they have been travelling for ten days. They left their village to find work. Even though the journey is hard, they stay hopeful. Ram Datt thinks that if they meet the King of Ujjain, he will see their talent and give them jobs. The others agree with him and all four feel the same way.

As they approach the city, fresh camel tracks catch their attention. Each of the four begins to observe the tracks carefully, noting specific and unusual details. Though they do not speak of their findings immediately, it becomes clear that each man has noticed something significant about the animal that left the tracks.

Just as they prepare to rest, a merchant runs towards them, breathless and distressed, asking if they've seen his missing camel. One by one, the four men describe the camel's characteristics-a limp, blindness in one eye, a short tail and stomach illness. The merchant is astonished by their accuracy and suspects foul play.

The merchant accuses them of stealing the camel, believing no one could describe it so well without having seen it. The young men deny the charge but agree to accompany him to the King's court to clear their names. They remain calm and confident in their honesty.

Scene II : The King's Court

In the grand royal court of Ujjain, the King listens to the merchant's complaint. The merchant insists that the young men must have stolen his camel since they described it so well. The King then orders the accused to be brought forward.

Ram Datt saw three deep footprints and one light one, so guessed the camel was limping. Shiv Datt noticed the camel ate only from the left side of the path so he thought it was blind in its right eye. Har Datt saw blood spots and guessed the camel had a short tail and couldn't chase away mosquitoes. Dev Datt said the camel was walking carefully, So he believed it had a stomach ache.

The King, impressed by their logic, wisdom and honesty, declares the young men innocent. He rebukes the merchant for his false accusation and offers the four men positions as royal advisers. The young men humbly accept the honour and the court celebrates their appointment.