

Chapter 19

Four Clever Men

(Four men go to Ujjain looking for jobs. Later on the king of Ujjain calls them 'clever'. Why does the king do so)

Characters : The king of Ujjain, Four young men named Amar, Rohit, Vijay and Dev, A merchant, A sentry.

(Four young men named Amar, Rohit, Vijay and Dev are walking along the road to Ujjain. They are going to Ujjain in search of jobs).

Amar : We've come a long way from home but haven't found any jobs.

Rohit : It's been about ten days.

Vijay : Well, ten days isn't a long time.

Dev : If only we could meet the king of Ujjain, I am sure he would take us into his service.

Amar : We will think how to meet him when we reach Ujjain.

Rohit : Look a camel has gone this way. Let us study the tracks it has made.



(The four men studied the footprints of the camel as they walked down the road).

Amar : I've found one special thing about this camel.

Rohit : I've found one, too.

Vijay : So have I.

Dev : Me too. As soon as we find a big, shady trees, we'll sit down and talk about the things we've found about the camel.

(A man comes running. He is a merchant. He stops near the four men and greets them).

Merchant : Hello everybody. Gentleman, I've lost my camel. Have you seen it ?

Amar : Is it lame in one of its legs ?

Teacher's Note: Take the pupils out to show them a magic show.

Merchant : Yes, it is.

Vijay : Is it blind in the right eye ?

Merchant : Yes, yes, my camel is blind in the right eye.

Rohit : Does your camel have a short tail ?

Merchant : Absolutely true. It has a short tail.

Dev : Isn't it suffering from a pain in the stomach ?

Merchant : I think you people are veterinary doctors. My camel has been suffering from a pain in the stomach for the last two weeks. Will you please tell me where it is ?

Dev : We know all about it from the tracks it has made on the road.

Merchant : I don't believe you. You are thieves. You found my camel and sold it to someone. I'm going to complain to the king. Come with me to the king.

All four men : All right. Let's go to the king.

(The four men follow the merchant to the king's palace. The sentry takes them in).

Sentry : Your Highness, this man is the merchant of Ujjain. He has come to make a complaint against the men who have taken away his camel. He says that these four men have stolen his camel.
(Pointing towards the four men).

King (to the merchant) : How do you know that these men have taken away your camel ?

Merchant : Sir, they know everything about my camel and yet they say they haven't seen it.

King : (to the four men) Is that right ?

Amar : Your Highness, each of us has found out one special thing about the merchant's camel by looking at the tracks it had made. But none of us has actually seen it.

King : (to Amar) what have you found about this camel ?

Amar : It is lame in one leg.

King : How did you find that out ?

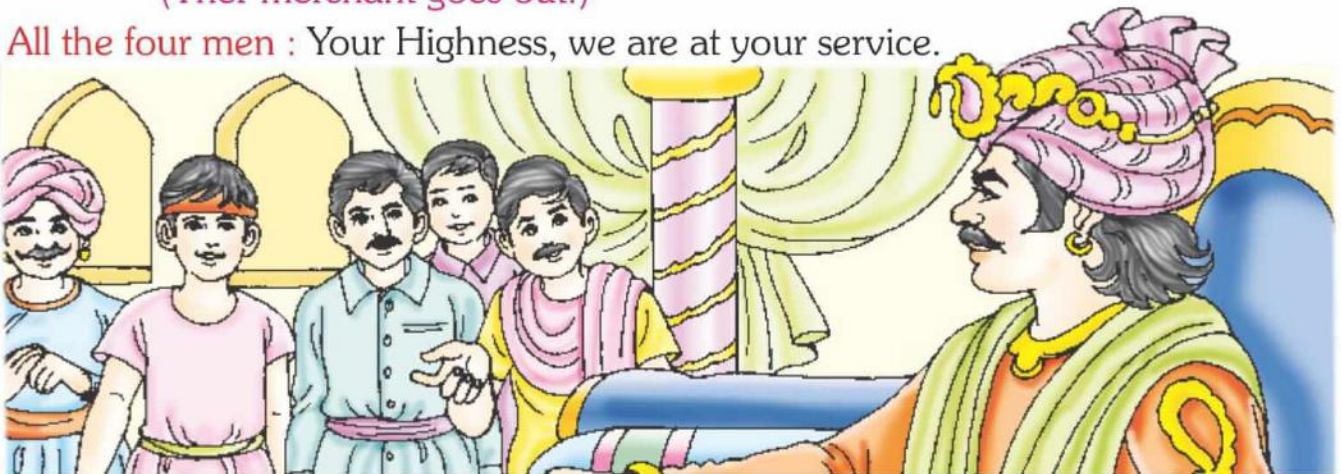
Amar : Your Highness, I saw that the prints which he made on the road were that of only three of its feet.

King : (to Vijay) what did you find about the camel ?

- Vijay : I found that it was blind in the right eye.
- King : How did you know that ?
- Vijay : I saw that it had eaten the leaves of the trees only on the left side of the road, and so I knew that it was blind in the right eye.
- King : And what did you find, Rohit ?
- Rohit : Your Highness, I found that it had a short tail.
- King : But how did you know that it had a short tail ?
- Rohit : I saw some drops of blood in the track and I knew that they came from mosquito bites. So I could guess that the mosquitoes could not have bitten the animal so much if it had a long tail to brush them away.
- King : Excellent reasoning power ! what did you find about the merchant's camel, Dev ?
- Dev : I saw that the prints of the camel's forefeet were very deep and clear and the prints of the hind foot were very light. So I could very well guess that the camel drew up its hind leg because it had pain in the stomach.
- King : That's marvellous ! (Turning to the merchant). I'm satisfied that these four gentlemen have not seen your camel. They all are very clever. You should go and search for your camel.
- King : (to the four men) Friends, I'm pleased with you all and your reasoning powers. You all are very clever. I want you to be my advisers.

(The merchant goes out.)

All the four men : Your Highness, we are at your service.



Words to Learn

clever	service	footprints	special	lame	blind
veterinary	suffering	tracks	liar	complaint	excellent
reasoning	marvellous	satisfied	advisers	pleased	

Skill Test

WORK OUT

Answer the following questions :

- What did the four men want ?
.....
- What were the four different things the four friends noticed about the camel ?
.....
- Why did the merchant call the four friends thieves ?
.....
- How did Amar find out that the camel was lame ?
.....
- How did Vijay find out that the camel was blind ?
.....

GRAMMAR

A. Fill in the blanks :

tall	taller	tallest
old
strong
young
good
loud

B. Change these statements into questions by adding a question tag :

Example : He played very well.

He played very well, didn't he ?

1. He was really mean.
2. The crocodile was furious.
3. The people need to cook their food.
4. Your sister is not in town
5. They can't eat it raw.

VOCABULARY

A. Now match the words in column I to words with opposite meanings in column II.

Column I

clever
young
long
down
special
stop
right
last

Column II

up
left
stupid
start
ordinary
old
small
first

B. Match the words of similar meaning :

Column A

right
marvellous
not ordinary
clever

Column B

excellent
wise
correct
special