

Unit 10 The Punishment of the Shahpesh, The Persian, on Khipil, the Builder

Synonyms

PARAGRAPH 1

lingered	remained
riverside	riverbank
stretched	extended
masons	builders
stonecutters	stone workers
burden	load
recounting	telling
anecdotes	stories
recitations	readings
gratify	please
fairness	beauty
standeth	stands

PARAGRAPH 2

abased	humbled
advantage	benefit
requisition	demand
foreign	outside
distraction	diversion
envy	jealousy
sovereign	ruler
occupy	fill
wisdom	knowledge
exclaims	cries out
site	place
laid	placed

gorgeous	splendid
raiment	clothing
praises	compliments
spake	spoke

PARAGRAPH 3

neglected	ignored
seed-time	sowing season
sowing	planting
richness	fertility
harvest	crop
abundance	plenty
excellence	superiority
conducted	led
unfinished	incomplete
saloon	large room
imperfect	incomplete
roofless	without a roof
erected	built
obelisk	monument
pierced	penetrated
chipped	damaged
balusters	railing posts
terrace	platform
devotion	dedication
constancy	firmness

shaft	pillar
precede	go before

PARAGRAPH 4

commanded	ordered
heartened	encouraged
contrivance	device
manifest	obvious
incomplete	unfinished
advance	move forward
distinction	difference
proportion	balance
excellent	outstanding
building	construction
occupies	takes up
hesitated	paused
strides	steps
motion	movement
swimming	moving through water

PARAGRAPH 5

hurriedly	quickly
swallowed	engulfed
reached	arrived
trembling	shaking
chattering	trembling/talking rapidly
contrivance	device
privilege	special right
approbation	approval
executed	completed

measure	extent
splendours	magnificence
pretence	false appearance
posture	position
conspiracy	secret plan
master	superior
token	sign
insensible	unaware
transfixed	pierced
guards	protectors
arrows	weapons

PARAGRAPH 6

mournful	sorrowful
pitiful	miserable
fitting	suitable
dalliance	playful enjoyment
remonstrating	protesting
dreadful	frightening
strength	power
dark fate	unfortunate destiny
desert	barren place
admire	praise
feeblest	weakest
coolness	freshness
refreshing	reviving
handful	small amount

PARAGRAPH 7

nettles	stinging plants
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perfume	fragrance
reddened	became red
possessed	affected
refrain	stop oneself
methinks	I think
beguiling	charming
lulled	calmed
odoriferous	fragrant
mistress	beloved woman
innocence	purity
bower	shady shelter

PARAGRAPH 8

applicable	suitable
comprehensiveness	completeness
delight	pleasure
chafing	Irritation
nosegay	bunch of flowers
presented	given
refused	rejected
wrath	anger
presentation	giving/showing
seize	take
desisted	stopped

PARAGRAPH 9

indicated	pointed out
pale	lacking colour
saddened	made unhappy
battered	badly treated

mournful	sorrowful
received	got
shammed	pretended
accompany	go with

PARAGRAPH 10

clemency	mercy
petition	formal request
imploring	begging
craving	strong desire
solace	comfort
throbbed	pulsed
magnitude	greatness
fertility	productivity
rankness	excessive growth
chastisement	punishment

PARAGRAPH 11

ceased	stopped
persecuting	troubling
gasping	breathing with difficulty
drought	lack of water
pomegranate	a fruit
languished	suffered
stagnant	inactive
commentator	observer
dominion	territory

PARAGRAPH 12

splendid	magnificent
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bloom	flower	punished	disciplined
roots	underground parts	affairs	matters
loquacious	talkative	languished	suffered
patience	tolerance	currents	flows
rare	uncommon	stagnant	inactive
regret	feel sorry	constructor	builder
babble	talk foolishly	commentator	observer
wisdom	knowledge		

Question Answers

- 1. What is the central theme conveyed through the fate of Khupil, and how is it relevant to people who rely more on words than actions?**

Answer: The central message conveyed through the fate of Khupil is that people who talk too much but do not work hard face humiliation in the end. Those who rely more on words than actions may impress others for a while, but they do not gain real respect or success.

- 2. How does Shahpesh use sarcasm and irony in his treatment of Khupil, and what does this reveal about his leadership style?**

Answer: Shahpesh uses sarcasm and irony by praising Khupil for useless things. He punishes him with clever tricks instead of anger. This shows that Shahpesh is a wise and clever king who teaches lessons in a smart and calm way.

- 3. How does Khupil's character evolve from the start of the story to the end? Does he become more fearful, defiant, or resigned through examples?**

Answer: Khupil's character evolves from the start of the story to the end. At first, Khupil is proud and talks too much. After punishment, he becomes sad and quiet. He looks weak and tired. He does not fight back. He seems sorry and accepts his mistakes by staying silent.

- 4. How does the setting of an unfinished palace function symbolically to reflect Khupil's incompetence and the consequences of idle talk?**

Answer: The unfinished palace symbolically reflects Khupil's incompetence because, even after four years, he failed to complete it. This shows that he lacked skill, discipline, and dedication. It also reflects the consequences of his idle talk, as mere words cannot do the work of a builder.

- 5. Shahpesh uses a metaphor about the farm servant who failed to sow seeds. Who does this metaphor reveal about his perspective on Khupil's work?**

Answer: This metaphor shows that Shahpesh sees Khipil's work as empty and incomplete. Like the farm servant who boasts without sowing, Khipil talks proudly but fails to deliver real results. Shahpesh believes real value comes from action, not words.

6. How does the story begin (exposition), and what key information do we learn about Shahpesh and Khipil? Discuss the style of the story.

Answer: The story begins with Shahpesh commanding Khipil to build a palace. We learn that Shahpesh is a powerful and observant king, while Khipil is a talkative builder who delays the work for four years. This sets up the contrast between Shahpesh's authority and Khipil's carelessness.

7. How does the use of elevated poetic language and classic storytelling techniques, e.g., fables, satires, and embedded poetry, contribute to the effectiveness of the story?

Answer: The story uses elevated, poetic language and classical storytelling techniques like fables, satire, and embedded poetry. This style makes the story more engaging and effective. It delivers the moral lesson creatively and memorably.

8. How do humor, wit, and satire often serve as methods of storytelling to comment on political and social issues?

Answer: Humor, wit, and satire are used as storytelling tools to make the story interesting and meaningful. They help deliver serious lessons in a light and clever way. By mocking laziness, idle talk, and weak leadership, the story gives short comments on social habits and political failures.

9. Have you ever read any story from Persian or Middle Eastern literature, like Arabian Nights?

Answer: Yes, I have read stories from Persian and Middle Eastern literature, including the Arabian Nights. These stories often use rich imagery, fantasy, and moral lessons.

10. What kind of characters, themes, or morals do you usually encounter in such stories?

Answer: In Persian and Middle Eastern stories, we often find characters like wise kings, foolish slaves, and advisors. The common themes are justice, pride, fate, and wisdom. These stories usually end with a strong moral lesson.

11. Can you recall a story where a character was punished for their actions?

Answer: Yes, in the story of King Midas, he is punished for his greed. He wishes that everything he touches should turn to gold. His wish is granted, but even his food and daughter turn to gold. He repents deeply. The story teaches that greed leads to pain and sorrow.

12. What connection can you draw between the concept of punishment in Arabian Nights stories and the title of this story?

Answer: In Arabian Nights stories, punishment is used to teach a lesson, often through clever tricks or poetic justice. The title The Punishment of Shahpesh on Khipil also shows such a punishment as in Arabian tales. Khipil has not harmed anyone directly but is taught a lesson through humiliation and irony.

13. What is Shahpesh comparing Khipil to in his story about the farm servant?

Answer: Shahpesh compares Khipil to a farm servant who boasts about his work but fails to sow the seeds. The comparison shows that Khipil talks proudly but does not produce real results. Shahpesh believes that actions are more valuable than words.

14. Why does Khipil hesitate to step forward into the gap? What does this hesitation reveal about his character?

Answer: Khipil hesitates because he is afraid of Shahpesh and his bodyguards. He realizes that he has been caught and does not know what punishment awaits him. His fear makes him stop and hesitate. His hesitation reveals that Khipil is fearful, weak, and no longer confident. At the beginning, he appears confident and talkative, but when he faces the consequences of his actions, he becomes frightened and submissive.

15. What is the significance of Shahpesh leaving Khipil surrounded by his bodyguards? What does this say about Shahpesh's control over Khipil?

Answer: Shahpesh leaving Khipil surrounded by his bodyguards shows that Khipil is completely under the king's control. The guards prevent him from escaping and ensure that he obeys the king's orders. It shows that Shahpesh has complete authority and control over Khipil. He does not need to use physical force himself; his authority and the presence of his guards are enough to make Khipil obey. This also highlights Shahpesh's power, intelligence, and calm leadership.