

- [In The Kingdom of Fools Summary](#)

## In The Kingdom of Fools Summary

"In The Kingdom of Fools" is a Kannada folktale edited by A.K. Ramanujan, which narrates the story of a kingdom ruled by a foolish king and his equally foolish minister. The king decrees that night should be considered day and day should be considered night, leading the citizens to stay awake at night and sleep during the day. This reversal of natural order causes the city to appear deserted during the day and lively at night.

A guru and his disciple visit the kingdom and observe this strange behavior. The disciple is pleased with the cheap prices of goods and decides to stay, while the guru disapproves. The story unfolds with a series of absurd events, including a thief dying under a collapsing wall and a complicated blame game that leads to the merchant being sentenced to execution. The execution process is comically flawed due to the merchant's size, prompting the king to order the execution of a fat man first.

The disciple is brought forward for execution, but the guru cleverly intervenes by claiming that the first person executed on the new stake will be reborn as king. The foolish king, eager to regain his throne, volunteers to be executed first, thus saving the disciple and ending the tale with the guru's wisdom triumphing over folly.

### Key Elements

- **Themes:** Foolishness and wisdom, the absurdity of blind obedience, and the triumph of intelligence over ignorance.

- **Characters:** The foolish king, the minister, the guru, the disciple, the merchant, and other townspeople.
- **Setting:** The fictional Kingdom of Fools where normal rules are reversed.
- **Plot:** The reversal of day and night, the strange behavior of the citizens, the incident with the thief and the merchant, and the guru's clever plan to save his disciple.

## Important Quotes and Explanation

"The person who is executed first on this Toly stake will be reborn as the king of this kingdom." This line is pivotal as it reveals the guru's clever trick to outwit the foolish king and save his disciple.

## Practice Set

### Level 1 – Easy

- What unusual order did the king give regarding day and night?
- Who visited the Kingdom of Fools?

### Level 2 – Moderate

- Explain why the city appeared deserted during the day.
- Describe the incident involving the thief and the merchant.

### Level 3 – Challenging

- Analyze the significance of the guru's statement about the Toly stake.
- Discuss the theme of foolishness versus wisdom as depicted in the story.

## Answer Key

## Level 1 – Easy

- The king ordered that night should be considered day and day should be considered night.
- A guru and his disciple visited the Kingdom of Fools.

## Level 2 – Moderate

- The city appeared deserted during the day because the people slept during the day and stayed awake at night as per the king's order.
- A thief entered a merchant's house but died when the wall fell on him. This led to a blame game and the merchant being sentenced to execution.

## Level 3 – Challenging

- The guru's statement was a clever trick to save his disciple by making the foolish king eager to be executed first, thus sacrificing himself.
- The story contrasts foolishness, represented by the king and his orders, with wisdom, represented by the guru, highlighting the value of intelligence and reason.

## Quick Reference

- **Kingdom of Fools:** A place where normal rules are reversed.
- **Guru:** A wise teacher who uses intelligence to solve problems.
- **Foolishness:** Lack of good sense or judgment.
- **Wisdom:** The ability to make sound decisions and judgments.

## Glossary

- **Deserted:** Empty or abandoned, with no people or activity.
- **Eatable:** Fit to be eaten; food that is safe and suitable for consumption.
- **Commodities:** Raw materials or primary products that can be bought and sold.

- **Mason:** A worker who builds with stone, brick, or concrete.
- **Executed:** To put to death as a punishment for a crime.
- **Stake:** A wooden or metal post used for execution or punishment.

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