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Wisdom Paves The Way Summary

Summary: "Wisdom Paves The Way" is a story set in the ancient city of Ujjain. It follows four young men—Ram Datt, Shiv Datt, Har Datt, and Dev Datt—who journey to Ujjain seeking employment. Along the way, they encounter a distressed merchant whose camel has gone missing. Despite the merchant accusing them of theft because they know detailed facts about the camel, the four men use their keen observation and reasoning skills to describe the camel's condition accurately. Impressed by their wisdom, the King of Ujjain appoints them as his advisers, recognizing their intelligence and insight.

Characters

- **The King of Ujjain:** A young and wise ruler who values intelligence and justice.
- **Four Young Men:** Ram Datt, Shiv Datt, Har Datt, and Dev Datt, travellers seeking work and known for their sharp observation and reasoning.
- **The Merchant:** A distressed man whose camel has gone missing and who initially accuses the four men of theft.
- **Two Sentries:** Guards at the city gates and the King's court.

Setting

The story is set on a dusty road leading to the city of Ujjain and later in the King's grand court adorned with rich tapestries, tall pillars, and regal decor. The time is midday, emphasizing the clarity and brightness suitable for observation.

Themes

- **Wisdom and Observation:** The story highlights the importance of keen observation and logical reasoning in solving problems.
- **Justice and Fairness:** The King's fair judgment shows the value of truth and justice in leadership.
- **Perseverance:** The four men's determination to find work and their journey to Ujjain reflect perseverance.

Important Quotes

- King: "Your reasoning is flawless and speaks of wisdom that goes beyond mere sight."
- Ram Datt: "From its tracks on the road, I observed that only three feet left distinct impressions."
- Dev Datt: "The prints of the camel's forefeet were deep and clear, while those of the sound hind foot were faint."

Literary Devices

- **Dialogue:** The story uses dialogue effectively to reveal character traits and advance the plot.
- **Imagery:** Descriptions of the camel's tracks and the setting create vivid mental pictures.
- **Symbolism:** The camel's condition symbolizes hidden struggles and the importance of understanding beyond appearances.

Practice Set

Level 1 – Easy

- Who are the four young men in the story?
- What is the main problem faced by the merchant?
- Where is the story set?

Level 2 – Moderate

- Explain how the four men knew details about the merchant's camel without seeing it.
- What qualities of the King are shown in the story?
- Describe the setting of the King's court.

Level 3 – Challenging

- Analyze the theme of wisdom in the story with examples.
- Discuss how observation and reasoning helped the four men prove their innocence.
- Write a short paragraph on the importance of justice as depicted in the story.

Answer Key

- **Level 1 Answers:**
 - The four young men are Ram Datt, Shiv Datt, Har Datt, and Dev Datt.
 - The merchant's camel has gone missing.
 - The story is set on the road to Ujjain and in the King's court.
- **Level 2 Answers:**
 - The four men observed the camel's footprints, eating patterns, and other signs to deduce its condition.
 - The King is wise, just, and values intelligence and fairness.
 - The King's court is richly decorated with tapestries, tall pillars, and a golden canopy.
- **Level 3 Answers:**
 - Wisdom is shown through the men's careful observation and logical reasoning, which helps solve the mystery of the camel.
 - The men's detailed observations of the camel's tracks and behavior proved their innocence and impressed the King.
 - Justice is important as the King listens carefully, evaluates evidence, and makes a fair decision, protecting innocent people.

Quick Reference

- **Ram Datt:** Observed the camel's limp from footprints.
- **Shiv Datt:** Noticed the camel was blind in one eye from eating patterns.
- **Har Datt:** Deduced the camel had a short tail from blood drops.
- **Dev Datt:** Saw the camel's pain from the depth of footprints.
- **King of Ujjain:** Wise ruler who values truth and wisdom.

Glossary

- **Adorned:** Decorated or beautified.

- **Resolute:** Determined and firm.
- **Tapestries:** Heavy decorative fabrics with pictures or patterns.
- **Bustling:** Busy and lively.
- **Eludes:** Avoids or escapes.
- **Devise:** To plan or invent.
- **Deliberate:** To think carefully.
- **Scrutinise:** To examine closely.
- **In haste:** In a hurry.
- **Pursued:** Chased.
- **Countenance:** Facial expression.
- **Distressed:** Worried or upset.
- **Astray:** Away from the correct path.
- **Indignant:** Angry or offended.
- **Yonder:** Over there.
- **Fended off:** Protected against.
- **Insight:** Deep understanding.
- **Sound:** Healthy.
- **Intimately:** In a detailed way.
- **Flawless:** Perfect.
- **Chastened:** Made to feel sorry.
- **Counsel:** Advice.
- **Beacon:** A guiding light.

Scene I: The Road to Ujjain

Summary: Four young men—Ram Datt, Shiv Datt, Har Datt, and Dev Datt—are travelling towards Ujjain in search of work. They discuss their journey and hopes of meeting the King. Along the way, they notice fresh camel tracks and decide to follow them. They encounter a distressed merchant who has lost his camel and seek their help. The merchant accuses them of stealing the camel because they know detailed facts about it, but the men deny the accusation and agree to go with him to the King.

Key Elements

- **Characters:** Four young men, Merchant.
- **Setting:** A dusty road leading to Ujjain, surrounded by greenery and fields.
- **Plot Points:** Observation of camel tracks, meeting the merchant, accusation of theft.

Textual Evidence

- Ram Datt: "We have journeyed far from home, yet the prospect of finding work still eludes us."
- Shiv Datt: "I believe it has been over a week— perhaps even longer."
- Merchant: "My camel has gone astray. Have you, by chance, seen it?"
- Ram Datt: "Is your camel lame in one leg, by any chance?"

Practice Set

Level 1 – Easy

- Name the four young men travelling to Ujjain.
- What did the four men notice on the road?
- Who did the four men meet on the road?

Level 2 – Moderate

- Why did the merchant accuse the four men of stealing his camel?
- What plan did the four men make to reach the King?
- Describe the setting of the road to Ujjain.

Level 3 – Challenging

- Explain how the four men used observation to learn about the camel.
- Discuss the significance of the camel's tracks in the story.
- Write a short paragraph on the theme of trust and suspicion in this scene.

Answer Key

- Level 1 Answers:

- Ram Datt, Shiv Datt, Har Datt, and Dev Datt.
- They noticed fresh camel tracks on the road.
- They met a distressed merchant.
- **Level 2 Answers:**
 - The merchant accused them because they knew detailed facts about his camel.
 - They agreed to go with the merchant to the King's court.
 - The road was dusty, surrounded by greenery and fields, leading to the city of Ujjain.
- **Level 3 Answers:**
 - The men carefully examined the camel's footprints and other signs to deduce its condition.
 - The tracks revealed the camel's limp and other details, helping the men understand its state.
 - The scene shows how suspicion arises from misunderstanding, but trust can be built through truth and reasoning.

Quick Reference

- Four men journey to Ujjain seeking work.
- They observe camel tracks and meet a merchant.
- Merchant accuses them of theft due to their knowledge.
- They agree to face the King to clear their names.

Glossary

- **Resolute:** Determined.
- **Eludes:** Avoids or escapes.
- **Devise:** To plan.
- **Deliberate:** To think carefully.
- **Scrutinise:** To examine closely.
- **In haste:** In a hurry.
- **Pursued:** Chased.
- **Countenance:** Facial expression.
- **Distressed:** Worried.

Scene II: The King's Court

Summary: The four young men and the merchant arrive at the King's court. The merchant accuses the men of stealing his camel. The King listens carefully and questions the men about their knowledge of the camel. Each man explains his observations and deductions about the camel's condition, impressing the King with their wisdom. The King declares the men innocent, praises their intelligence, and appoints them as his advisers.

Key Elements

- **Characters:** The King of Ujjain, the four young men, the merchant, sentries, courtiers.
- **Setting:** The grand hall of the King's court, richly decorated with draperies, tall columns, and a golden canopy.
- **Plot Points:** Accusation, questioning, demonstration of wisdom, appointment as advisers.

Textual Evidence

- King: "Your reasoning is flawless and speaks of wisdom that goes beyond mere sight."
- Ram Datt: "From its tracks on the road, I observed that only three feet left distinct impressions."
- Shiv Datt: "It had nibbled only on the foliage to the left of the road, leaving the right side untouched."
- Har Datt: "Small droplets of blood along the track told me of an animal lacking such defence."
- Dev Datt: "The prints of the camel's forefeet were deep and clear, while those of the sound hind foot were faint."
- King: "I extend to you the honour of becoming my advisers."

Practice Set

Level 1 – Easy

- Who is the ruler in the story?
- What accusation does the merchant make?
- What is the King's decision about the four men?

Level 2 – Moderate

- How did Ram Datt deduce the camel was lame?
- Explain Shiv Datt's observation about the camel's blindness.
- What qualities of the King are shown in this scene?

Level 3 – Challenging

- Analyze the role of wisdom and reasoning in the King's judgment.
- Discuss how the story portrays the importance of careful observation.
- Write a paragraph on the theme of justice as demonstrated by the King.

Answer Key

- **Level 1 Answers:**
 - The King of Ujjain.
 - The merchant accuses the four men of stealing his camel.
 - The King declares the men innocent and appoints them as his advisers.
- **Level 2 Answers:**
 - Ram Datt noticed that only three feet left clear footprints, indicating a limp.
 - Shiv Datt saw that the camel ate only on the left side, showing it was blind in the right eye.
 - The King is wise, just, and values intelligence and truth.
- **Level 3 Answers:**
 - The King's judgment is based on careful reasoning and evidence, showing the value of wisdom in leadership.
 - The story emphasizes that detailed observation can reveal truths not immediately visible.
 - The King demonstrates justice by listening to all sides and making a fair decision based on facts.

Quick Reference

- The King listens carefully to the case.
- The four men explain their observations about the camel.
- The King praises their wisdom and appoints them as advisers.

Glossary

- **Draperies:** Long thick curtains.
- **Canopy:** A decorative cover fixed over a seat.
- **Grievance:** Complaint.
- **Accusations:** Claims of wrongdoing.
- **Deduce:** To reason and conclude.
- **Discern:** To notice or perceive.
- **Fended off:** Protected against.
- **Insight:** Deep understanding.
- **Sound:** Healthy.
- **Intimately:** In detail.
- **Flawless:** Perfect.
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