

## Class 06 English

### A Pact With The Sun Chapter 05

#### Tansen

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#### 1. Why did Swami Haridas say Tansen was 'talented'?

**Ans:** Tansen, as a child had learnt to imitate the calls of birds and animals. One day Tansen saw Swami and his disciples resting in the forest. He hid behind a tree and roared like a tiger and managed to frighten his disciples. Swami Haridas was impressed by his skill, so said that Tansen was 'talented'.

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#### 2. Why did Akbar ask Tansen to join his court?

**Ans:** Tansen learnt music from Swami Haridas for eleven years. When Akbar heard him singing, he was impressed so asked him to join his court.

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#### 3. How do we know that Akbar was fond of Tansen? Give two reasons.

**Ans:** Akbar would call upon Tansen to sing for him at any time during the day or night. At times, he would just walk into Tansen's house to hear him practice and gave him many presents too. These reasons tell us that Akbar was fond of Tansen.

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#### 4. What did the other courtiers feel about Tansen?

**Ans:** Some of the other courtiers were jealous of Tansen because Akbar was fond of him and often gave him gifts. They felt bad of his popularity and decided to ruin him anyhow.

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#### 5. (i) What happens if Raga Deepak is sung properly?

#### (ii) Why did Tansen's enemies want him to sing the Raga?

**Ans:** (i) If Raga Deepak is sung properly, it makes the air so hot that the singer is burnt to ashes.

(ii) Tansen's enemies wanted him to sing the Raga because they knew he was a good singer. and If he sang it well, he would die as he would be burnt to ashes and they would be able to

get rid of him.

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**6. Why did Tansen agree to sing Raga Deepak?**

**Ans:** Tansen agreed to sing Raga Deepak because he could not disobey the king who was convinced that he was a great singer and could sing anything and he also wanted to prove his ability.

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**7. (i) What steps did he take to save himself?**

**(ii) Did his plan work? How?**

**Ans:** (i) Tansen was unhappy because he knew that the heat given off by singing the Raga Deepak would burn him to ashes. He then had an idea to save himself. If someone sang the Raga Megh at the same time, it would bring rain. So he decided to teach his daughter, Saraswati, and her friend, Rupvati. They practiced day and night for two weeks. Tansen told them that they must wait till the lamps started burning, and only then start singing. To do his preparations, he asked Akbar to give him some time.

(ii) Yes, his plan worked. On the appointed day, as Tansen began to sing Raga Deepak, the air became warm and the people in the audience were bathed in perspiration. The leaves on the trees dried up and fell on the ground, birds fell dead, and the water in the rivers began to boil. Soon the flames shot up and lighted the lamps. Just then, Saraswati and Rupvati began to sing Raga Megh. The sky clouded over and the rain came down and saved Tansen.

## Worksheet 01

### Tansen

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1. What do you know about Tansen's family?
2. What was the reason behind Tansen's sadness?
3. Why did the courtiers become jealous of Tansen?
4. Who was Tansen? Where was he born? Name his father and his profession.
5. How did Tansen marry Hussaini?
6. How did Tansen manage to save his life?
7. Why did Tansen's enemies want him to sing the Raga? Write your answer in the context of Tansen.
8. Who were Saraswati and Rupvati? What did they do to save Tansen's life?

## Worksheet 01

### Tansen

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#### Solution

1. Tansen married Hussaini. She was one of the ladies in the court of Rani Mrignaini. The couple had five children who were all musicians.
2. Tansen was told to sing Raga Deepak which he could not sing properly, but it could burn him to ashes. So, he was unhappy about it.
3. The courtiers were jealous of Tansen because he became favourite of Emperor Akbar. Akbar gave him many presents.
4. Tansen was the greatest ever singer of India. He was born in Behat near Gwalior. His father's name was Mukundan Misra. Misra was a singer by profession.
5. Tansen often visited the court of Rani Mrignaini in Gwalior. Rani Mrignaini was a great musician herself. There he met and married one of the ladies of the court. Her name was Hussaini. They had five children.
6. The courtiers wanted to ruin Tansen. One of the courtiers wanted him to sing Raga Deepak so that he could be burnt to ashes. Tansen knew that his life could be saved if somebody will sing Raga Megh at the same time. He taught his daughter Saraswati and her friend Rupvati to sing Raga Megh. When Tansen started singing, birds fell dead and water in the rivers began to boil. People cried out in terror as flames shot up and lighted the lamps. Then, the two girls began to sing Raga Megh and it started raining. Tansen's life was saved.
7. Tansen's enemies wanted him to sing the Raga because they knew he was a good singer, and if he sang it well, he would die as he would be burnt to ashes, and they would be able to get rid of him.
8. Saraswati was Tansen's daughter and Rupvati was Saraswati's friend. The jealous courtiers asked emperor Akbar for a performance of raga Deepak from Tansen, knowing the fact that if the raga is being sung properly it can turn Tansen into ashes. To rescue himself from the situation Tansen made the two girls learn Raga Megh. When Tansen sang raga Deepak, he began to burn. Just then these two girls sang Raga Megh. The Raga brought rain on Tansen and thus the two girls were able to save Tansen's life.