

ENGLISH

CHAPTER 2: THE FRIENDLY MONGOOSE



THE FRIENDLY MONGOOSE

~Summary~

-by Khushwant Singh

The story "**The Friendly Mongoose**" is taken from the collection of **fables** called "**Panchatantra**". There was a **farmer** and his **wife**. They lived in a village along with their **baby**. The farmer wished to have a pet in his home because he thought that it would be a good **companion** for his son. So he brought home a **small mongoose**. Within five to six months, the mongoose had grown to its full size.

One day, the farmer's wife had to go out to buy **groceries**. But she didn't want to leave the baby alone with the mongoose. So she asked the farmer to look after the baby till she arrives. But the farmer felt bored and went out to take a look at the fields. On his way, he met some of his friends.

When the wife got back home, she saw the mongoose's face **smudged** with **blood**. She screamed, believing that it had **harmed** her baby. She threw the basket full of groceries at the mongoose and **killed** it. Then she ran towards her baby's cradle. When she saw the dead snake near the baby's cradle, she realised the truth; the mongoose was **innocent**, and it had saved her baby's life by killing the snake. She also realised her **mistake**. She acted rashly without knowing the truth.

The moral of the story is: "**Look before you leap.**" It means that any person must always think **twice** or **thrice** before they do something to avoid **problems**.

WISER
ACADEMY



Think twice or thrice to avoid problems.

~Conclusion~

The story concludes that trust is very important in any bond. The Mongoose was loyal to the farmer's family but the wife's mistrust of him led to its unfortunate death. Loyalty should be repaid with trust and understanding. It also teaches us that our actions should not be guided by quick and reckless judgements. We should think responsibly before we act.

NCERT SOLUTIONS

Questions (Page No. 6)

Question 1. Why did the farmer bring a baby mongoose into the house?

Answer: The farmer brought a baby mongoose into his house because they needed a pet so that their son had a companion when he grew up. The baby mongoose would be a friend to their son in the future.

Question 2. Why didn't the farmer's wife want to leave the baby alone with the mongoose?

Answer: The farmer's wife was afraid of the mongoose harming her child and so she didn't want to leave her baby alone with the mongoose.

Question 3. What was the farmer's comment on his wife's fears?

Answer: The farmer told his wife that she needn't be afraid as the mongoose was a friendly animal. It was as sweet as their baby and they were the best of friends.

Question 4. Why did the farmer's wife strike the mongoose with her basket?

Answer: The wife saw the mongoose face and paws smeared with blood and concluded that it must have killed the baby. She cried 'blood' and continued screaming hysterically and accusing the wicked animal of having killed her baby. She was blind with rage and with all her strength she brought down the heavy basket full of groceries on the blood smeared mongoose.

Question 5. Did she repent her hasty action? How does she show her repentance?

Answer: Yes, she repented her hasty and rash action, she realized that the mongoose had actually saved her child by killing the black snake. She rushed outside looking for the mongoose. She repented by saying that the mongoose had saved her child and look what she had done to repay it. She touched the mongoose that lay dead and still unaware of her sobbing. She stared long at the dead mongoose.