STORIES FROM POETS

BOOK II

THE WILL OF GOD

4832

Approved vide Kerala Govt. Gazette
No. 3 dated 15-1-1963

MUNAVVIRUL ISLAM HIGH SCHOOL
Date.....
ERNAKULAM



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STORIES FROM POETS

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THE WILL OF GOD

UNAVIPVI ISLAM HIGH SCHOOL
Date 1959
ERNAKULAM

by

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THE WILL OF GOD

Date.....

I

THE OLD SAGE

Long ago there was a king who ruled over a large kingdom. Though he was young, he was an able ruler. He ruled his kingdom so wisely and well that his people enjoyed peace and happiness. He loved learning and encouraged and rewarded learned men.

Once the king held a great festival which lasted three days. On the third day he presided over a meeting of learned men, when they discussed many useful and interesting subjects. Among the sages present at the meeting, the king saw a very old man. Though he was so old, his eyes shone brightly. He spoke very little. He was smiling to himself all the time

that the meeting went on. After the meeting there was a grand feast.

When the feast was over, the king called the old sage and said to him, "Sir, I welcome you to my court. Tell me the subject in which you are learned, or the art in which you are skilled."

"I have worked hard, Your Majesty," answered the sage, "and have tried to learn many things. But even now I do not consider that I know much. Yet I can tell what the stars foretell. I know who will become king of this country after your death."

"Then tell me all about it," cried the king. "I am eager to hear your answer," added he.

"A man of humble birth will become king of this country after your death," said the sage.

The king sat speechless for a few moments and then said, "Sir,

you must prove to me that you know things not known to others. Then only I can be sure that you are really skilled in the art of foretelling. Then only I can believe what you say."

The sage answered, "I shall prove to you my skill in the art. But I don't like to do it in the presence of all your lords and these learned men."

At once the king led the sage to his garden. There was in it a tree with wide spreading branches. The king took the sage to the foot of this tree. It was very cool there. He said, "Now, Sir, speak and prove your skill."

"Listen, Your Majesty," said the sage. "A year ago your faithful servant, Antony, stood here and drank poison at your command. I know why you killed him. He knew how Marshal Hugh

died. You ordered some of your men to murder him."

The king was very angry. "Remember, old man, whom you are talking to. I have power still," said he. But the sage replied, "I do not fear to die. I do not care for your power. Farewell, but what I have foretold will surely come to pass." So saying, the old sage went away.

Answer each of the following briefly and to the point.

(1) "Though he was young, he was an able ruler." Show how.

(2) Describe the great festival that the king once held.

(3) What did the old sage foretell?

(4) Why was the king displeased?

NUSAVIPU ISLAM HIGH SCHOOL
Date.....
ERNAKULAM

II

THE DREAM

Years went by. The king almost forgot what the old sage had foretold. He married a beautiful princess and he and his queen lived happily.

One day he and his courtiers went out hunting. They hunted and killed many animals. In the afternoon the king saw a big boar and pursued it. His courtiers, who were very tired, could not keep up with him. When the king had killed the boar, he too was very tired. It was night and he was alone. He looked round and saw a light in the distance. So, leading his horse, he slowly walked to that place.

Before long, he reached a cottage. He saw a man standing at

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boar–male pig.

the door. The king said, "Friend, I have lost my way. Give me some food and drink and allow me to stay at your cottage for the night."

"No," said the peasant, "you must not enter my cottage. My wife is about to give birth to a child. If you like, you may lie down in the cattle-shed. There is plenty of straw and animals are not there to-night. I shall give you what food and drink I can."

"Thank you," said the king, "I shall reward you for your kindness."

The peasant then went in and returned with a lamp, some bread and a little wine. He took the stranger to the cattle-shed and said to him, "Eat and drink as you like and lie down upon the straw and sleep." Then he returned to the cottage.

The king was very hungry and tired. So he ate the bread and drank the wine. Then he lay down upon the straw and slept. After some time he woke up in great fear. He heard a voice say, "Take! Take!" He stood up and looked round. But he could not see or hear anything. So he lay down and slept again. A second time he woke up because he heard a voice say to him, "Give up! Give up!" He stood up and looked round in great fear. But he still could not see or hear anything. So he lay down and slept again. Now he had a dream. He saw the old sage smiling and saying to him, "Take or give up! The child that is born to-night at this cottage will surely sit upon your throne when you are dead." Once again the king woke up in great fear. He tried not to sleep so that he might not dream again. But he was so tired that

he slept again. When he woke up again it was morning.

Answer each of the following briefly and to the point,

(1) How did the king happen to spend a night in a peasant's cattle-shed ?

(2) Describe the dream that the king dreamt that night.

III

THE PEASANT'S CHILD

Then the king came out of the cattle-shed and went to the cottage. He looked in through the door. The peasant was sorrowing over his dead wife. She had died soon after giving birth to a boy.

Just then the king's courtiers, who had been searching for him, came there. They were glad to see him quite safe. Hearing many

voices, the peasant came out of the cottage. When he knew who his guest was, he fell on his knees before him and said, "I beg Your Majesty to forgive me."

But the king did not seem to hear his words. He was looking at the new-born child. Then he turned to his courtiers and said, "Sirs, this poor peasant gave me food and shelter for the night. I want to help him. His boy is motherless. I shall take the boy to my palace and bring him up there. I shall teach him to serve me or some other king." Then he asksd the peasant, "What do you say, my friend?"

"I hoped to have a son," said the peasant, "who would help me in my work and support me in my old age. But God has willed that I should have no home. My wife is dead. There is no one to

look after the boy. So let it be as you wish."

Then the king asked his treasurer to give the peasant twenty pieces of gold. After receiving the money, the peasant placed the child in a wooden box lined with straw and gave it to one of the king's men. Then the king and his courtiers rode away.

After riding for a few hours they came out of the forest and reached the bank of a small river. All this time the king was thinking what he should do with the boy. Suddenly he stopped and said, "The boy needs a nurse. There are houses on the other side. I shall go there and find some suitable woman. Let the man who carries the boy alone come with me. All the others may go to the city."

When they were gone, the king turned to the man who carried the boy and said, "Samuel, your father and grandfather served mine. You have served me faithfully till now. This boy is my enemy. The old sage has said that he will sit on my throne when I am dead. That shall not be. Throw this boy into the river, box and all."

Samuel did as he was told. The king was pleased to hear the baby's cry. The box floated down the stream and seemed about to sink.

Soon the king reached his palace. During his absence his queen had given birth to a beautiful girl. He was in great joy. In a few days he forgot all about his dream and the peasant's boy.

Answer each of the following briefly and to the point.

(1) How did the peasant know that his guest was the king?

(2) How did the king get the boy from the peasant ?

(3) How did the king try to kill the boy ?

IV

MICHAEL, THE MILLER'S BOY

Fifteen years passed. One morning the king rode out with some of his men to see his falcons fly. He sat on the bank of a stream. The place was beautiful, shady and cool. Near-by was a mill. It was autumn and mid-day was hot. The king thought that he would have a meal there and sent to the miller for food and drink. The miller was glad to serve the king. So he himself brought the food and drink. With him came a boy quite unlike the miller in his looks.

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falcons—hunting birds.

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So, after he had eaten, the king asked the miller, "Your boy is not at all like you. Perhaps he is like his mother. Is she in your mill?"

"Your Majesty may see my wife," said the miller. "But the boy is not my son. My wife did not give birth to him. He is a foundling. Seeing him forsaken and helpless, we took him and brought him up. This happened fifteen years ago." Then the miller went to bring his wife.

On hearing the miller's words the king remembered what he had done fifteen years ago. He was now very anxious. Soon the miller returned with his wife. She carried something covered with a piece of cloth.

"Now, tell your story to His Majesty," said the miller to his wife.

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foundling—അനാഥശിശു

"My tale is short and simple," she said. "Fifteen years ago, I was returning home from the market. As I rode along, I heard a cry. I looked all round and saw a little boy in a box among the weeds that grew in the stream. I waded through the water, took up the box and came back to the bank. He was about to die of cold and hunger. I carried him to the mill. We have no children of our own. So we have brought him up as our own son. We found him about Michaelmas. So we have named him Michael."

Then she uncovered the box and placed it before the king. As soon as he saw the box, he knew that Michael was really the peasant's son. The king had told his servant Samuel to throw him into the stream about fifteen years back.

Hiding his fear, the king returned to his palace. Next morning he called Samuel and told him about the miller's boy and what Samuel should do with him. At once Samuel started for the mill. As he came near it, he saw Michael and asked the boy to lead him to the miller.

In great fear, the miller asked Samuel, "What does his Majesty want ?"

"The king wants you to send Michael to serve him. He likes the boy very much," said Samuel.

"You may take Michael to the court," said the miller. "He is not my son. But I hoped he would live here and be a son to us."

Then Samuel turned to Michael and said, "Tell me, my good boy, what would you like to do ? Where would you like to live ?"

"I should like to live here," said Michael. "This is a beautiful place."

"Don't be a fool, Michael. The court is a better place than the mill," said Samuel. Then he gave the miller a bag of gold. He said that the king had asked him to give it to him.

Both the miller and his wife were very sad. With tears in his eyes, Michael went with Samuel. They walked for some time and reached the road that led to the palace. But Samuel took the boy towards a thick forest.

"Does His Majesty live in the forest, Sir? "asked Michael. "No, he is staying now at his hunting-lodge, which is on the other side of the forest," answered Samuel. The boy seemed satisfied and they walked on in silence. Soon they entered the forest. When they were almost in

the middle of it Samuel stabbed the boy with a knife. He fell down wounded in the side. Samuel wanted to stab again to make sure that he died. But the sound of a far-off bell frightened him. So he ran away as fast as he could. Next day he went to the palace and told the king that his enemy was dead. The king gave him plenty of gold. But Samuel did not live long to enjoy the king's gift. He died a month later.

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UNAVIRVI ISLAM HIGH
Date.....
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Answer each of the following briefly and to the point.

(1) How did the king come to know that the miller's boy was really the peasant's son?

(2) How did the king try to get rid of him again ?

V

THE ABBOT'S GUARD

Three years went by. The king was living happily. Princess Cicely, his daughter, was now in her eighteenth year, dearly loved by the king. About this time the queen fell ill and died. Some months after her death, the king married again hoping now to have a son.

Two hundred miles from the capital the king had a beautiful palace called, The Palace of The Rose. He sent Princess Cicely to stay there for some time.

Before she went, he said to her, "My darling, I shall come and see you in your new palace within a month. I shall bring with me, my dearest, the young lord I have chosen to marry you."

Not far from the capital there was a forest near which was a monastery. Abbot Peter was its head. A week after Princess Cicely had gone to live in The Palace of The Rose, Abbot Peter came to see the king. With him came his prior, three monks and ten guards. The king invited all of them to dinner. While they ate and drank, the king noticed that one of the guards was quite young and handsome. He thought he had seen him somewhere. After dinner, the abbot and his men were ready to return to the monastery. Then the king said to the abbot, "Your guards, Reverend Sir, are fine young men. Are there more such young men in your monastery? I should like to have a few to serve me."

Then he asked the young and handsome guard to remove his cap. As soon as this was done

the king knew that the man was Michael, the peasan't son and the miller's boy. He asked the young man to tell him the story of his life. The young man ended his story thus, "One day an old man came and took me from the mill where I was living happily. He said that he was going to take me to the palace to serve the king. But while we were walking through a forest, the old man suddenly stabbed me and I fell down wounded and senseless. The prior can tell you the rest of my story."

"Yes," said the prior, "one evening I was going through the forest to the cottage of a working man. His wife was about to die. On my way I saw this young man lying wounded and senseless. I stopped, picked him up and placed him on my horse. Then I took him to the monastery. There he

was looked after and his wound was healed. As he got better, we taught him to read and write. But he did not want to be a monk. So we gave him a place among the guards. "Michael, show His Majesty the knife which the old man used to stab you." The knife was the one the king had given to Samuel.

The sight of the knife filled the king's mind with strange thoughts. Again he had failed to get rid of the boy whom he thought of as his enemy. He was both frightened and puzzled. He felt ashamed of what he had done, but he would not repent. Instead, he determined to try once more to get rid of Michael.

So he said to the abbot, "My court is a better place for this young man than your monastery. So let him serve me." The abbot replied, "It shall be as you wish." Then the

abbot and the rest of his party went back to the monastery.

Answer each of the following briefly and to the point,

(1) What did the king promise princess Cicely when she went to stay at The Palace of The Rose?

(2) How did the king come to know that one of the abbot's guards was Michael?

(3) How did the king get Michael into his power?

VI

THE CROWN PRINCE

The king took about ten days to decide what he would do with Michael. Then he sent for the young man and gave him a letter. "Princess Cicely, my daughter, is staying at The Palace of The Rose," said he.

"It is in the southern part of my kingdom. Go there and give this letter to the captain of her guard."

Soon Michael started. He rode on the horse the king gave him. The journey lasted him ten days. At last he reached the Palace of The Rose. He asked the guards at the gate if he could see their captain. He said, "I bring a letter from the king. He has asked me to place it in the captain's own hands."

"But the captain is feasting in the hall," said one of the guards, "and you can see him only after he has sent away all the guests. Please wait," added he. So Michael went into the garden. He was very tired. He lay down near a fountain and slept.

As Michael lay sleeping, princess Cicely and one of her maids came to the garden. They walked slowly round the garden, talking and

laughing. When they came near a fountain, they saw a young man sleeping on the grass. He was very handsome. The maid said. "He may be the young lord chosen by your father to marry you. Perhaps your father has sent him here to woo you."

Then the maid saw the letter in the sleeper's hand. She drew it out and gave it to the princess. Then she pressed her to read it. When the princess read it, she was very sad. The letter wanted the captain to kill immediately the man who brought it. The princess had fallen in love with Michael. So she wanted to save him.

She said to her maid, "Wait here near him. Watch carefully and let him sleep. I shall go in and soon come back." Then she ran quickly to her own room. She wrote another

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woo—make love to

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letter and placed on it the king's seal. This letter ordered the captain to marry the messenger to the princess immediately. Then the princess returned to the garden with it, the maid placed it in the sleeper's hand and the princess and her maid left the garden.

After some time Michael woke up. He went to the captain and gave him the letter. As soon as he read it, the captain sent for the lords and the priests who lived near The Palace of The Rose. When they came, he told them about the king's message. Then, in the presence of all of them, Michael and the princess were married.

The king had promised to visit his daughter within a month after her arrival at the Palace of The Rose. He came there the day after the marriage. The young lord he had chosen to be her husband had been killed fighting. So he expected

that she would be very sad. But he was astonished to see Michael and his daughter fall on their knees before him and ask for his blessing. The king turned to the captain and asked him to explain what had happened. The captain gave him the letter which bore his seal. The king understood what had happened. At last he accepted the will of Heaven and gave Michael and princess Cicely his blessing. He said to himself, "It is useless to struggle against the will of God."

Then, with Michael and the princess, the king returned to his capital. He sent for his lords and gave them a grand feast. When the feast ended, he told them that Michael would succeed him on the throne.

Answer each of the following briefly and to the point,

(1) What did the king do to to get rid of Michael.

(2) How did Michael come to be married to Princess Cicely ?

(3) What did the king do when he knew that it was useless to struggle against the will of God ?

MUHAMMADIYA ISLAM HIGH SCHOOL
Date P.K.C
ERNAKULAM

FINAL TEST

Fill up the blank in each of the following by choosing the right word or words from those given in brackets.

1. The king loved———and encouraged and rewarded———men.
   (learned, hunting, clever, learning)
2. On the third day of the festival the king———over a meeting when they ———many useful and interesting subjects.
   (discussed, thought, presided, spoke)
3. Among the———present at the meeting the king saw a very———man.
   (soldiers, old, young, sages)
4. The sage told the king that a man of———birth would———him on the throne.
   (noble, humble, succeed, become)
5. As the king slept in the peasant's shed, he heard a———say that the child that was——— at that cottage

that night would succeed him on the throne.

(noise, borne, voice, born)

6. The king said that he would———the boy to his palace and teach him to ———him or some other king.

(serve, hate, take, kill)

7 Samuel———the boy into the river and the king was———to her his cry.

(threw, drew, surprised, pleased)

8. When they were in the middle of the———Samuel———Michael with a knife.

(river, stabded, killed, forest)

9. The miller told the———that the boy was a ———.

(darling, king, foundling, queen)

10. During dinner the king———that one of the———was quiet young and handsome.

(guards, notichd, monks, said)

11. The king told the abbot that his——— was a better place for the young guard than his———.

(house, court, monostery, kingdom)

12. The———letter wanted the———to kill immediately the man who brought it.

(abbot's, king's, soldier, captain)

13. The letter of the———ordered the captain to marry the———to her immediately.

(messenger, princess, hunter, king)

14. The king remarked, " It is———to struggle against the will of——"

(useless, useful, God, man)

15. The king———of the evil he had——.

(talked, repented, spoke, planned)

SAKUNTALA AND DUSHYANTA

I

Long ago there was a great king named Viswamitra. One day he went into a forest to hunt. Some of his courtiers went with him. There he met Vasishta who was one of the Sapta Rishis. The rishi asked the king to be his guest that day. The king agreed to the rishi's request.

Vasishta asked Kamadhenu to feast the king and his courtiers. Kamadhenu was a heavenly cow. The king and his men were very much pleased with the feast.

At the end of the feast the king said to himself, "I do not think that Kamadhenu is very useful to the rishi. She will be more useful to me than to him." So he requested Vasishta to give the cow to him.

But Vasishta answered, "The cow is not mine. I am only allowed to make use of her, I am sorry that I cannot give her to you."

Therefore Viswamitra determined to get the cow by force. He ordered his men to catch the cow. But Kamadhenu was a heavenly cow. So she killed many of them and ran away. Viswamitra was now very angry. He thought of attacking the rishi. Vasishta knew what was in the king's mind. He planted his staff in front of his asram. Then he closed his eyes and prayed to the gods. Viswamitra shot many arrows at him, but none of them hit him. So he understood that the rishi was greater than he. He stopped attacking the rishi and returned to his kingdom.

Answer each of the following briefly and to the point.

1. How did Viswamitra happen to be the guest of Vasishta for a day ?

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2. Why did Viswamitra determine to get Kamadhenu by force ?
3. What happened when the king's men tried to seize her ?
4. How did Viswamitra understand that Vasishta was greater than he ?
5. What did Viswamitra do then ?

II

After his return to his kingdom, Viswamitra told his people that he wanted to go to the forest to pray to the gods and become a rishi. He said to them, "I have chosen one of my courtiers to rule the land in my place, I hope that all of you will be happy under his rule." Then Viswamitra left for the forest.

Viswamitra lived in the forest for several years. He spent his time in praying to the gods. Indra, who

was the king of the devas, feared that Viswamitra was trying to get his place. So he sent a heavenly maiden named Menaka to turn Viswamitra's mind from praying to the gods. She was very beautiful. When Viswamitra saw her he fell in love with her and married her. A daughter was born to them.

Then Viswamitra left the place to begin praying to the gods again. Menaka had to go back to Indra's court. So she left the child in the forest and returned to heaven.

The child lay crying there among the plants. On hearing the cries of the child, birds came flying to the place. When they found the helpless child they tried to protect it by shading it with their wings.

A rishi named Kanva passed that way. He also heard its cries. He went to the spot and found the baby girl. He carried her to his asram and named her Sakuntala.

Answer each of the following in a few sentences.

(1) What did Viswamitra do after going back to his kingdom?

(2) How did Indra try to turn Viswamitra's mind from praying to the gods?

(3) What happened when Viswamitra and Menaka went away and left the child in the forest?

MUNAVIRVI ISLAM HIGH
Date.....
ERNAKULAM

III

Years went by. Sakuntala grew up into a beautiful maiden. She led a very pleasant life at the asram. She had many companions. They were the daughters of the other rishis who lived in that forest. She loved the gentle animals of the forest. She was very fond of a fawn. She used to feed it with her own hand.

One day Kanva went to see a friend of his. He lived far away from Kanva's asram. So Sakuntala had to stay alone at the asram. One evening, while she was watering the plants in the garden, a young man appeared there. He was very handsome. He was dressed like a king. As soon as she saw him, she fell in love with him. But after watering the plants she quietly returned to the asram.

The handsome young man was Dushyanta. He was the king of the land. He was great and strong He had a large kingdom. He was hunting in that forest and came to the asram of Kanva to see the rishi. He fell in love with Sakuntala as soon as he saw her.

Soon Dushyanta entered the asram and saw Sakuntala there. She welcomed him and told him that Kanva was away. Dushyanta

asked her who she was. Sakuntala told him all about her parents. Then Dushyanta told her who he was and asked her if she was willing to marry him. He answered that she loved him. But she could marry him only after the return of her foster-father. The king said to her that he could not wait till then. He had to go back to his palace to attend to many important matters.

So Dushyanta and Sakuntala were married. They did not wait for Kanva's return. They spent a few days in great happiness. Then Dushyanta wanted to go back to his palace. But, before he left the place, he told her, "I shall soon send for you." Then he gave her a ring and said, "My dear, wear this ring. Take good care of it. Never lose it."

Then Dushyanta went back to his palace. Sakuntala was alone. She was always thinking of her husband who was away. Often she looked long and lovingly at his ring.

Answer each of the following in a few sentences.

(1) Describe the life led by Sakuntala at the asram.

(2) How did Dushyanta and Sakuntala happen to see and love each other?

(3) Why did they get married before Kanva's return?

(4) What did Dushyanta do a few days after the marriage?

(5) How did Sakuntala feel after the king's return to his palace?

IV

One day Sakuntala was sitting at the door of the asram and thinking of her absent husband. Then a rishi named Durvasa came there. Though he called her many times she did not hear him. The rishi was very angry and cursed her. He said, "I know you are thinking of a man. Because of him you have taken no notice of me. But now he will quite forget you."

The rishi's curse frightened Sakuntala. She fell on her knees before him and said, "O great rishi, forgive me the wrong that I have done and take back the curse." With tears in her eyes she begged him again and again to show mercy to her. Durvasa took pity on her and said, "The man will remember you if you

show him the ring that he has given you." Then Durvasa left the asram.

Answer each of the following in a few sentences,

(1) Why did Durvasa curse Sakuntala.

(2) How did he show mercy to her?

V

Many days passed by. Kanva returned to the asram. He was happy to learn that Sakuntala had been married to King Dushyanta.

Kanva and Sakuntala waited for Dushyanta's return. Months passed. But the king did not return. Nor did he send for Sakuntala. So she was unhappy.

One day Kanva said to Sakuntala, "My darling, the king

may be very busy. He may have forgotten his promise to you. You had better go to him.'' Sakuntala agreed to go to the king's palace.

The day soon came for Sakuntala to start her journey. Two of Kanva's pupils were ready to go with her. Sakuntala took leave of all her companions at the asram. Her dear fawn was there and great was its sorrow. Sakuntala shed tears when she said good-bye to her dear fawn. Then she took leave of her foster-father and set out on her journey.

Answer each of the following in a few sentences.

(1) Why did Kanva advise Sakuntala to go to the king's palace?

(2) What did Sakuntala do before she set out on her journey?

VI

On the way Sakuntala stopped to bathe in the river. While she was bathing, Dushyanta's ring slipped off her finger and fell into the river. Though she searched for it a long time, she could not find it. The pupils of Kanva also searched for it. They also could not find it. The ring was lost. So, in great sorrow, Sakuntala continued her journey.

At last she reached the king's city and went to the palace. Her companions told the king who she was and why they had brought her there. They said to the king, "Kanva, our guru, requests you to keep Sakuntala here with you as she is your wife."

Dushyanta looked at Sakuntala. He thought that she was very

beautiful. But he did not remember that he had married her. The curse of Durvasa was the reason of the king's forgetfulness.

Sakuntala tried her best to make the king remember her. She described to him their secret marriage, but he could not remember anything about it. He thought that she was telling him a false story. So he told her that he could not accept her as his wife. He ordered his men to send her away. So Sakuntala returned sadly to Kanva's asram.

Answer each of the following in a few sentences.

(1) Tell what happened during Sakuntala's journey to the king's palace.

(2) Why did she return sadly to Kanva's asram ?

VII

Sakuntala passed many months in deep misery. She gave birth to a boy. He was very handsome. He was named Bharatha. He grew into a strong and brave prince. When he was only six years old, he could tame the cubs of tigers and lions and play with them. The sight of her son gladdened Sakuntala. But she was sad when she thought of her husband.

In this way many years went by. Sakuntala was afraid that he would have to live in the forest until her death. Dushyanta seemed to have quite forgotten her.

At last the ring which Sakuntala had lost was found. One day a fisherman happened to catch a large fish. When he cut it open, he saw a ring inside it. When he

took the ring in his hand and looked at it carefully, he found the name of king Dushyanta cut on it. Therefore the fisherman took the ring to the king.

As soon as Dushyanta saw the ring, he remembered all about his marriage to Sakuntala. His sorrow now was very deep, for he felt that he had been very cruel to her. He longed to see her. He wanted to make her understand how much he loved her.

So he started for Kanva's asram. When he came near it, he saw a handsome boy playing with a lioness and her cub. As soon as he saw the boy, Dushyanta knew that he was his son. He took the boy in his arms and kissed him. The Bharatha led him to his mother. When Sakuntala saw Dushyanta, she shed tears of joy. For some time she could not say anything. Dushyanta fell on his

knees before her and begged her to forgive him. Sakuntala forgave him willingly. With his dear wife and son, Dushyanta returned to his palace.

They lived together in great happiness for many years.

Answer each of the following in a few sentences.

(1) Show that Bharatha was a strong and brave prince.

(2) Describe how the lost ring was found.

(3) Describe the meeting of Dushyanta and Sakuntala.

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By Noor Muha

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