

3.2 A Lesson in Life from a Beggar

*Margin Questions for Discussion:

1) Who is Meena?

Ans: Meena is a good friend of the writer. She is an LIC officer earning a good salary.

2) What was Meena's nature like?

Ans: Meena was forever unhappy. She had gloom and cynicism. She was a pessimistic person.

3) What is meant by 'she never had anything positive Meena to say'?

Ans: She never had anything positive to say means that Meena was a pessimistic person. She always thought in a negative way.

4) Describe the location in Mumbai, where the writer spotted Meena.

Ans: The writer spotted Meena at Bombay's Flora Fountain - near Akbarallys, a popular department store.

4) What is the difference between an optimistic person and a pessimistic person?

Ans: An optimistic person always looks and thinks about positive side of life whereas a pessimistic person always looks and thinks about negative side of life. An optimistic person is hopeful about life whereas a pessimistic person is not hopeful about life.

6) What surprised the writer?

Ans: Meena's changed behaviour and her readiness to make any number of adjustments surprised the writer.

7) What lesson did Meena learn from her guru - the beggar?

Ans: Meena learnt to do compromise or adjustment with everything, enjoying every moment in life from her guru the beggar.

8) Describe an experience, where somebody has changed your way of looking at life.

Ans: Previously I was a pessimistic person. Because of my pessimistic nature. I could not get happiness. Then I read a book 'Secret of Happiness, I understood that being optimistic is the secret of happiness as well as success. I became an optimistic person in my life. Reading book changed my way of looking.

9) How did the beggar and his granddaughter enjoy the rain?

Ans: The beggar and his granddaughter were playing on the road because there was no traffic. They were laughing, dapping and screaming joyously as if they were in paradise

10) What did Meena do to show gratitude to her guru?

Ans: Meena sponsored guru's granddaughter to a boarding school as a mark of respect to him.