

LESSON - 2.

The Medicinal Creeper.

1. What did Mara do when they found the creeper?

One day when Sanna brought a bundle of creeper to tie the cane frame Mara noticed a medicinal creeper among the bundle, later they went in search of it to the forest. As soon as Mara saw the medicinal creeper, he caught hold of the tendrils and tied it to the nearby tree. He did so because, he believed that it would be easier for him to find it for the next time.

2. Mention the curse about the medicinal plant.

Mara narrated that the medicinal creeper has been cursed by a sage. The curse is that when someone needs this plant, they shall not find it.

3. What surprised the white man?

One day when Mara had been to the forest to get some bamboo shoots home, while cutting them, he accidentally cut his hand. His artery was cut and it resulted in profuse bleeding. Someone brought some leaves and pressed it against the wound and covered it with a cloth. Later he

went to the whiteman at Hulihindaku for proper dressing and treatment. The white man got out his first-aid kit, cotton, medicine, anti-biotic powder etc and opened the bandage, removed the leaf from wounded hand. But the whiteman got surprised by seeing Mara's wounded hand which had got cured within a couple of hours of getting cut, just because of placing the leaf of medicinal creeper on the wound.

The fact that the leaves cured Mara's wound on hand so quickly surprised the whiteman.

4. How did the mangoose and cowal cure themselves of snakebites?

The mangoose and cowal cured themselves of snakebites by chewing the medicinal leaves immediately.

5. Why had Mara lost his teeth on the right side?

Once, Mara had laid a trap in the forest to catch rabbits. He went into the forest before daybreak to check. But unfortunately the trap was empty. So before trekking back home, Mara decided to brush his teeth and wash his face in a nearby stream. So he broke a small stick from a nearby plant and while brushing he felt a sour taste in his mouth. He thought there

was something wrong with the stick and threw it. He wanted to rinse his mouth so he took some water, after churning it around in his mouth, spat it out, while spitting he realised that all the teeth which had been touched by that stick had tumbled out of his mouth. This incident has made Maca to loose his teeth on the right side.

6. what did Mara's wife find on opening the packet of meat?

Mara's wife found a live wild buck instead of the meat of the barking deer on opening the packet.

7. what happened when milk was mixed with the juice of the creeper's leaves?

when the milk was mixed with the juice of creepers leaves it had become firm and rubbery. Later it turned into a moulded cast.

8. when would the medicines lose their potency, according to the belief of native doctors?

According to the native doctors the medicine would lose their potency only when the uses of medicine is shared with others.

Comprehension II

1. How long did it take the narrator to learn the facts about the medicinal creeper? What does it signify?

The writer K.P. Poojnachandra Tejaswi is a prominent Kannada writer, novelist, ornithologist, painter and environmentalist.

He was with Mara and his friends for a long time to know more about the medicinal creeper. It took almost twenty years for the author to learn about the medicinal creeper, this is all because of the unwillingness of the local people to share their knowledge regarding these medicinal plants, they believe that if the ^{secret} is shared, it may lose its potency.

This signifies that there were a lot of myths regarding this creeper. Nobody was sure of the type of disease that it could cure, its availability, in what form it must be taken and so on. Also it tells how dedicated and interested the narrator is towards hearing and collecting the information about the plants.

2. What does the incident of Mara's wife throwing the leaves into fire tell us about Indians in general?

This incident instills in reader the idea that Indians have a casual

attitude towards the medicinal plants though it can do wonders.

- Marai's wife throwing the leaves into fire talks about the less educated society which does not have knowledge about the importance in discovery and research of those kinds of plants and thus no value is given to them. They look to it as everyday objects in their life. As they are not aware of its importance and special abilities. Thus it leads to — existence in Indian medicinal system.

3. How was Krishna cured of his illness?

Krishna was the erstwhile farmhand of the author. He had stopped working in the estate sometime ago and was driving a rickshaw. When he changed his job, he started passing blood with his stools. He appeared tired, breathless and had wheezing. It was thought to be piles. The only allopathic treatment for piles was surgery, which was expensive. More than that he was very scared of surgery, therefore he tries to seek the help of a Malayali Sadhu, who had on an earlier occasion cured him of boils on his body.

The Malayali Sadhu was now an old man. So he advised Krishna to search for a specific type of plant and use its tuberous root with milk and drink it for five days.

The description of the creeper by Krishna made narrator sure that he was looking for the same creeper which Mara and Appanna had tied it to a nearest tree. Later He took him to the plant, Krishna ground the root and drank it with milk, within a day his piles improved. He was completely cured in five days.

Comprehension

1. Do you think the author is suggesting that Indian herbal medicine is better/safer than allopathic medicine?

The writer K. P. Poojnachandna Tejaswi a prominent writer is trying to suggest that Indian Herbal Medicine is better and safer than allopathic medicine.

The belief of the native doctors that if they ~~the~~ reveal things related to their medicine, it would lose its potency has resulted in the loss of knowledge of traditional medicine. People like Mara and his wife were ignored and neglected the significance of the medicinal creeper and this took the author almost twenty years to test, if there was some truth in what Mara and other illiterates claimed.

The author tries to show that Indian herbal medicine can do wonders, when allopathic medicine becomes a failure

or settle as the one with side effects than benefits, through surgery. He quotes the example of his erstwhile farmhand Krishna, who was troubled by heat boils all over his body and got treated by a Malayali Sadhu - within ten days and then the piles treatment was also ^{done and} cured by the same Sadhu, within five days everything was under control because of herbal medicine. Because of all these experienced reason the author is trying to promote the herbal system over the allopathic system.

2. What has made the modern man lose the knowledge of traditional medicine? Do you think Ayurveda will make a comeback in a successful way?

The modern man has lost the knowledge of Ayurveda. He is not aware of the importance and capabilities of the Ayurvedic system of treatment, as we are progressing, the technological development has given a ~~proge~~ pressure to the allopathic system that it has become everyone's talk, it is very sad to know that the knowledge of Ayurvedic medicine is neglected and diminishing in society.

The fact that the people never care about it has made its circulation to come to a halt. More importantly in this modern world where everyone believes

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Science has answered to everything, if natives still go by the belief that the potency of ayurvedic medicine will reduce if their knowledge is shared, then few people exist in this world dominated by people supporting allopathic medicine.

3. 'Our natural resources are our vital resources'. Explain the statement in the light of several 'developmental' projects that are being promoted today.

Natural resources are indeed the vital resources. In this story we realize the importance of natural resources such as medicinal herbs. The mismanagement of these natural resources has led to various disasters and natural calamities, global warming, climatic changes, new diseases and epidemics. Water, air, land and space have been polluted beyond imagination. We have lost innumerable flora and fauna in the name of some developmental projects.

Most of the resources that are put into maximum use are exhaustible resources. It is ideal on our part that we undertake some developmental projects in order to conserve the wealth of nature. Recycling the natural resources and finding alternate sources of energy would help us conserve the precious natural resources.

Harnessing solar energy for various

purposes in the form of solar cells, cooker and heater will help save a lot of other resources. Rain water Harvesting should be made mandatory in order to save water. Opting for alternative sources like wind energy and tidal energy to generate electricity can be utilized. Finally, by following the principles of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, one can conserve the natural resources for the generations to come.