

NCERT QUESTIONS WITH SOLUTIONS

Thinking About the Text

1. When her son dies, Kisa Gotami goes from house to house. What does she ask for? Does she get it? Why not?

Ans. When her son died, Kisa Gotami went from house to house. She asked for medicine. No, she didn't get it because the people said that she had lost her senses and the boy was dead.

2. Kisa Gotami again goes from house to house after she speaks with Buddha. What does she ask for, the second time around? Does she get it? Why not?

Ans. Kisa Gotami again went from house to house after she spoke to the Buddha. Second time around she asked for a handful of mustard-seeds from a house where no one had ever died. She didn't get it because there wasn't any house where no one had lost any of their dear ones.

3. What does Kisa Gotami understand the second time that she failed to understand the first time? Was this what the Buddha wanted her to understand?

Ans. For the first time, Kisa Gotami went from house to house asking for a medicine that could cure her dead son. She was told that no medicine can make a dead man alive. The second time, she understood what Buddha wanted her to understand. Kisa Gotami understands that it is the fate of men, that their lives flicker up and extinguish again. Death is common to all.

Buddha wanted her to understand this and also this that in this valley of desolation there is a path that leads him to immortality who has surrendered all selfishness.

4. Why do you think Kisa Gotami understood this only the second time? In what way did the Buddha change her understanding?

Ans. I think Kisa Gotami understood this only the second time because after becoming weary and hopeless from her search for a deathless house, she sat down at the wayside watching the flickering and extinguishing lights of the city. This phenomenon leads her to understand that death is inevitable and common to all.

Buddha changed her understanding by explaining that the life of morals in this world is troubled and brief and combined with pain. There isn't any means by which you can avoid dying. Ripe fruits are early in danger of falling. All earthen vessels end in being broken.

5. How do you usually understand the idea of 'selfishness'? Do you agree with Kisa Gotami that she was being 'selfish in her grief'?

Ans. By the idea of 'selfishness', I usually understand that a man thinks about himself only without any consideration for others' interests or reality of the world.

Yes, I agree with Kisa Gotami that she was being 'selfish in her grief.' For her son's life she forgot the reality of this mortal world where all are subject to death. Weeping for her dead son would not bring him back to life.
