

Class VII

Three Questions by Leo Tolstoy

Word meaning:

1. avoid

stay away from

2. undertake

enter upon an activity or enterprise

3. proclaim

declare formally

4. idle

not in action or at work

5. council

a body serving in an administrative capacity

6. worship

the activity of cherishing as divine

7. hermit

one retired from society for religious reasons

8. folk

people in general (often used in the plural)

9. dismount

alight from (a horse)

10. spade

hand shovel that can be pushed into the earth with the foot

11. unfasten

become undone or untied

12. moan

indicate pain, discomfort, or displeasure

13. feeble

pathetically lacking in force or effectiveness

14. crouch

the act of bending low with the limbs close to the body

15. threshold

the sill of a door

16. revive

cause to regain consciousness

17. hut

small crude shelter used as a dwelling

18. bandaged

covered or wrapped with a bandage

19. handkerchief

a square piece of cloth used for wiping the eyes or nose

20. cease

put an end to a state or an activity

21. wounded

suffering from physical injury especially that suffered in battle

22. gaze

look at with fixed eyes

23. ambush

concealing yourself and lying in wait to attack by surprise

e.

24. seize

take hold of; grab

25. swear

to declare or affirm solemnly and formally as true

26. sow

place seeds in or on the ground for future growth

27. pity

share the suffering of

28. revenge

action taken in return for an injury or offense

Summary (part 2)

After digging for some time, the king again asked his questions. Before the hermit could answer, a man emerged from the woods. He was bleeding from a terrible stomach wound. So, the king and Hermit

washed the wound and bandaged till the blood ceased. The king stayed the night in the hermit's hut. Next morning the wounded man was doing better and was gazing intently at the king. He confessed to the king that he knew who the king was, and that the king had executed his brother and seized his property. He had come to kill the king, but the king's guards had wounded him. The king forgives him and make peace with his enemy and promised to restore the property to the wounded man.

The king asked the hermit again for his answers, and the hermit responded that he had just had his questions answered. Hermit says that the king had pitied his weakness, and had dug those beds for him. So, the most important time was when the king was digging the beds and he was the most important man. The most important time was when the king was attending to the wounded man and that man was the important person at that time.

CONCLUSION:

Leo Tolstoy from this short story tries to convey the message that one can be successful in life if he follows the below three things.

- . The most important time is NOW. The present is the only time over which we have power.
- . The most important person is whoever you are with.
- . The most important thing is to do good to the person you are with