



## Grade VI

### Lesson 5. Tansen

#### Summary of the chapter

#### **Tansen, the Greatest Musician of India**

Tansen was the only child of singer Mukandan Mistrā and his wife. They lived in Behat near Gwalior. Tansen was a naughty child. He used to play in the forest and copy the calls of birds and animals. Swami Haridas once visited the forest with his disciples. Tansen saw them and tried to frighten them. He hid behind a tree and roared like a tiger. Swami Haridas told them not to be afraid. One of his disciples noticed Tansen making the mischief.

#### **Swami Haridas met Tansen's Father**

Swami Haridas did not punish Tansen. He told his father that Tansen can be a good singer. Tansen was ten year old when he went away with Swami Haridas and lived with him for eleven years. He became a great singer. Meanwhile, his parents child. Tansen's father wanted him to visit Mohammad Ghaus of Gwalior. His father was devoted to him.

#### **Tansen Married Hussaiani**

Tansen often visited the court of Rani Mrignani. He met one of the ladies of the court and married her. Her name was Hussaini. They had five children.

#### **Emperor Akbar was Impressed with Tansen but Courtiers were Jealous**

Tansen became famous and sang before Akbar who was impressed with him. He went to Akbar's court in 1556. He became Akbar's favourite. Akbar gave him many presents. The courtiers wanted him to ruin Tansen. One of the courtiers wanted him to sing Raga Deepak so that he could be burnt to ashes. He approached Akbar to order Tansen to sing Raga Deepak.

#### **Tansen got an Idea to Hit Back**

Tansen knew that his life could be saved if somebody will sing Raga Megh at the same time. He taught his daughter Saraswati and her friend Rupvati to sing Raga Megh.

#### **People Came to Hear Tansen Sing Raga Deepak**

When Tansen started singing, birds fell dead and water in the river began to boil. People cried out in terror as flames shot up and lighted the lamps. The two girls began to sing Raga Megh and it started raining. Tansen's life was saved. Akbar punished Tansen's enemies.



**1. Why did Swami Haridas say Tansen was 'talented'?**

Tansen knew how to copy the calls of birds and animals. One day, he roared like a tiger and frightened the travellers. Swami Haridas was impressed by his skills and called him 'talented'.

**2. Why did Akbar ask Tansen to join his court?**

Tansen was a famous singer. Sometimes, he sang before Emperor Akbar. Akbar was very impressed with his singing and asked Tansen to join his court.

**3. How do we know that Akbar was fond of Tansen? Give two reasons.**

Tansen became the favourite of Akbar. He would request Tansen to sing at any time during the day or night. Akbar would walk into Tansen's house to hear his practice. He gave Tansen many presents.

**4. What did the other courtiers feel about Tansen?**

The other courtiers were jealous of Tansen's popularity. They wanted to ruin Tansen and could do anything to achieve this.

**5. (i) What happens if Raga Deepak is sung properly?**

If Raga Deepak is sung properly, it makes the air so hot that the singer is burnt to ashes.

**(ii) Why did Tansen's enemies want him to sing the Raga?**

The courtiers were jealous of Tansen's popularity and wanted to kill him.

**6. Why did Tansen agree to sing Raga Deepak?**

Tansen agreed to sing Raga Deepak because he could not disobey the emperor. He also wanted to prove his potential.

**7. (i) What steps did he take to save himself?**

Tansen took two steps to save his life. He requested the king to give him time to prepare the song. He taught his daughter and her friend to sing "Raga Megh".



(ii) Did his plan work? How?

Yes, Tansen's plan worked. When he started singing Raga Deepak, birds fell dead and people cried in terror as flames shot up and lighted the lamps. The two girls started singing Raga Megh and rain came down, saving Tansen's life.

8. Are you interested in music? Do you like classical music? Name a few distinguished Indian musicians.

Do it yourself.

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## Chapter Practice

### Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Who was Tansen?

Tansen was the greatest musician of India. He learnt music from Swami Haridas and became a favourite of Emperor Akbar.

2. What was Mukandan Misra's dying wish?

Mukandan Misra's dying wish was that his son Tansen should visit Mohammad Ghaus of Gwalior as he was his disciple. Mohammad Ghaus was a holy man.

3. Why did the courtiers become jealous of Tansen?

The courtiers were jealous of Tansen because he became favourite of Emperor Akbar. Akbar gave him many presents.

4. What happens if someone sings Raga Megh properly?

The sky gets clouded and results in rainfall if someone sings Raga Megh properly. Tansen's daughter and her friend sing Rga Megh.

5. What happened after Tansen's performance?

Tansen's life was saved by his daughter and her friend after his performance. But he became very ill after the incident.

6. What was the reason behind Tansen's Sadness?

Tansen was told to sing Raga Deepak which he could sing properly, but it can burn him to ashes. So, he was unhappy about it.



## 7. What did Tansen go to Gwalior?

Tansen went to stay with Mohammad Ghaus of Gwalior as his father's wish that Tansen should go to him.

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### Short Answer Type Questions

1. Do you think Tansen was naughty during the childhood? Give reason to support your answer.

Yes, Tansen was very naughty during his childhood. He used to copy the calls of birds and animals. Once, he scared the disciples of Swami Haridas who visited a forest. Tansen roared like a tiger in the forest and scared them.

2. How did Tansen marry Hussain?

Tansen often visited the court of Rani Mrignaini in Gwalior. Rani Mrignaini was a great musician herself. There he met and married one of the ladies of the court. Her name was Hussaini. They had five children.

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### Long Answer Type Questions

1. How did Tansen manage to save his life?

The courtiers wanted to ruin Tansen. One of the courtiers wanted him to sing Raga Deepak so that he could be burnt to ashes. Tansen knew that his life could be saved if somebody will sing Raga Megh at the same time. He taught his daughter Saraswati and her friend Rupvati to sing Raga Megh.

When Tansen started singing, birds fell dead and water in the rivers began to boil. People cried out in terror as flames shot up and lighted the lamps. Then, the two girls began to sing Raga Megh and it started raining. Tansen's life was saved.



## 2. Who was the greatest musician of India? Describe his life.

Tansen was the greatest musician of India. He was the only child of Mukandan Misra and his wife/. They lived in Behat near Gwalior. Tansen was a naughty child and scared visitors in a forest.

Swami Haridas told his father that Tansen lived with Haridas for eleven years. He became a great singer. He married Hussaini and had five children.

Tansen became famous and sang before Akbar who was impressed with him. He went to Akbar's court in 1556. He became Akbar's favourite. Akbar gave him many presents.

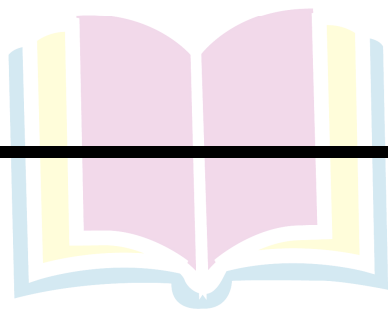
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### Value Based Questions

#### How did jealous courtiers learn their lessons?

The courtiers wanted to ruin Tansen. One of the courtiers Shaukat Mian wanted him to sing Raga Deepak so that he could be burnt to ashes. He approached Akbar to order Tansen to sing it.

Tansen knew that his life could be saved if somebody will sing Raga Megh at the same time. He taught his daughter and her friend Rupvati to sing it. When Tansen started singing, people cried out in terror as flames shout up and lighted the lamps. The two girls began to sing Raga Megh and it started raining. Tansen's life was saved. Akbar understood the entire plan of the courtiers and punished them.



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