

ENGLISH

CHAPTER 9: WHAT HAPPENED TO THE REPTILES?



WHAT HAPPENED TO THE REPTILES?

~Summary~

-by ZAI WHITAKER

In this **moral** story, the **narrator** Prem, by narrating his own **experience** with a story he had told by an old man, shows us the importance of 'Unity'.



Unity in diversity

The story reflects the importance of **religious harmony**, as, the author points out the fact of how everyone shares an equal role in the society irrespective of their **colour, creed, race, religion, ranking**, etc., and it would result in a huge **disaster** if this system is **disturbed**.



Religious Harmony

Here, by inserting a story (story of **Pambupatti**) inside a story, the author tries to raise his voice against dictatorship, which is a lesson to the human beings themselves. It also reflects the advantages of unity and disadvantages of disunity. Though people belong to different categories, they **all** share the **same position** and deserve equal respect, importance, freedom, etc.

The narrator in this story, by portraying the character **Makara**, brings out how people suffer due to **ineffective** leadership and bad decisions. In this story, Makara being powerful, held the position of a leader and ruled the whole forest **dominantly**.



Makara, the arrogant leader

It ruled so **arrogantly** in a way that it did not allow the fellow speakers to talk against its decision when expelling the other animals from the forest. It spotted out drawbacks in the other animals' behaviour and chased them one by one which includes **tortoises, snakes, and lizards**. These decisions taken by Makara had created trouble for itself and others as well, and so lost its power. Only when the animals had taken a group decision, the situation came back to **normal** at last. The story **emphasizes** the importance of being **united**.

~Conclusion~

Happiness and peace returned to the jungle as all the reptiles came back to their homes. Through this story, Prem understands that it is important for all people to coexist peacefully. He resolves to head back with the hope of retelling the story of the reptiles to the people of his village.

NCERT SOLUTIONS

Questions (Page No. 42)

Question 1. In what way is Pambupatti different from any other village?

Answer: The people of Pambupatti village live in harmony even they are dark, fair, tall, short and speak many language. Some people eat meat while some don't and some pray in a small temple while some pray in others mosque. Even after that, they don't hate each other and live in peace.

Question 2. Why is Prem determined not to return to his village?

Answer: Prem determined not to return to his village because the people in his village went mad and burnt down temple or mosque. There were religious crisis in the village and people started fighting with one another.

Question 3. Why did Makara dislike tortoises, snakes and lizards? Write a line about each.

Answer: Makara disliked tortoise because they were slow and stupid and carry their houses on their backs. He dislikes snakes because they were slimy, weird creatures and could kill anyone with their poison. He dislikes lizards because they had strange habits and could change their colors.

Question 4. What went wrong when the tortoises, snakes and lizards left the forest?

Answer: When the tortoises, snakes and lizards left the forest, rats grew bolder, frogs also grew huge and eat the baby crocodile and millions of insects growing bigger and nastier by the day. The forest was full of bad smell of rotting fruit and animals.

Question 5. Why do you think Prem wants to tell the story of the reptiles to the people of his village?

Answer: Prem wants to tell the story of the reptiles to the people of his village because it will give them the lesson of co-existence and peace. Everyone is important in the society and interdependent.

Question 6. Do you agree that it is difficult not to go along with someone who is very strong and powerful? Express your views frankly and clearly.

Answer: Yes, i agree with the statement that it is difficult not to go along with someone who is very strong and powerful because it takes very much courage to stand against decision o stronger people. Common people love peace and want to stay safe, so they take the powerful side.

Question 7. If you were a baby crocodile, would you tell Makara that he was wrong? What would you say to convince him?

Answer: A baby crocodile can tell their elder that they are wrong as they don't have to fear much. So as a baby crocodile, Yes, i would have tell Makara that he was wrong. I would have said him that each and every animal living in the forest are important. We are interdependent on each other and can't survive without them. I would have tell him the negative effects of his decisions.

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