

# ENGLISH

## CHAPTER 4: THE LAST BARGAIN



## THE LAST BARGAIN

~Summary~

**-by Rabindranath Tagore**

The poem "The Last Bargain" by Rabindranath Tagore starts with a speaker calling out for someone to **hire** him. He is first approached by the **king** himself, with a **sword**. He comes in a **chariot** and offers to hire the speaker with his **power**. The speaker rejects his offer as he does not want to be a slave. Then comes along an **old man**, when it is **mid-day**. He offers a bag of **gold coins** to hire the speaker. The speaker does not want to become a **slave to money** or any **materialistic possessions**. Towards the end of the day, he is approached by a **fair maiden** who tries to win him over with her **smile**. But the speaker understands that these are **temporary things** and moves on. He finally meets a **child** near the wayward sea, playing with **shells**. He offers to hire him with **nothing**, which makes the speaker a **free man** as he is not bound by any worldly or temporary things.

~Conclusion~

For real and everlasting happiness, we do not need power, money, or beauty. Freedom and innocence can make a person's life happy and contented.

**NCERT SOLUTIONS****Questions (Page No. 74)  
(Working with the poem)**

Question 1. Who is the speaker in the poem?

Answer: A daily wage earner who is looking for a job is the speaker of the poem.

Question 2. "The king, sword in hand" suggests

- a. wealth
- b. power
- c. more power than wealth.

Mark the appropriate item in the context of stanza 1.

Answer:

- b. power

Question 3. The old man offered the speaker a lot of money. Why did he turn down the offer?

Answer: The old man offered the speaker with a bag of gold. From his words, it's evident that the speaker desired job satisfaction and happiness at work, which he felt wasn't possible if he offered his services to the old man who was busy counting his gold coins and weighing them one by one. Due to this reason, the speaker turned down the offer because he valued his freedom more than becoming a slave for money.

Question 4. Find in the poem, lines that match the following. Read both one after another.

- a. I have nothing to give you except goodwill and cheer.
- b. Her happiness was no more than sorrow in disguise.

c. The king's might was not worth much.

Answer:

- a. "I hire you with nothing."
- b. "Her smile paled and melted into tears."
- c. "But his power counted for naught."

Question 5. How did the speaker feel after talking to the child on the beach?

Answer: When the speaker met the child who was playing with sea-shells near the beach, he talked with the little one. After talking with the child, the speaker realised that he might not earn a penny, but this made him extremely happy, free and gave him great satisfaction.

SHIVOM CLASSES  
8696608541