

1. What prediction was made by the astrologers about the Tiger King? How did it come true?

Ans: When the Maharaja of Pratibandapuram was born, the astrologers had predicted that he would die at the hands of a tiger. When the king came of age, he came to know about the prediction. He killed a tiger and sent for the astrologers who in turn advocated that the killing of one tiger did not mean that the king was safe. He would have to be careful with the hundredth tiger.

Then, the King decided to kill one hundred tigers. In ten years, he killed all the seventy tigers of his forests. He then married a royal girl whose father's state had a large tiger population. Whenever he visited his father-in-law, he would kill five or six tigers. Finally he had killed ninety nine tigers and he was perturbed for the hundredth tiger. His Dewan somehow arranged for the hundredth tiger. The King shot at it and it collapsed but did not die. The King presented a wooden tiger to his son on his third birthday. The wooden tiger was not carved properly and it had small slivers of wood on its surface. One such sliver entered his right hand. It turned up into infection and developed into a suppurating sore which spread all over the arm. The Maharaja died during the operation. In this way the hundredth tiger, a wooden one, killed the King. Thus the prediction proved to be true.

2. The story is a satire on the conceit of those in power. How does the author employ the literary device of dramatic irony in the story?

Ans: When people acquire power, they think that they are all powerful and they often mistake it for invincibility. The author of 'The Tiger King' has used the device of irony in order to highlight the satire on the conceit of those who are in power. An irony is a literary device where witty language is used to convey insults or scorn. It shows the facts that provide the result which is quite opposite in nature. The King took the subjects for mere puppets, prosecuting or rewarding them at his own whims and fancies. He tries his best to falsify the prediction of the astrologers, since his state astrologers had foretold about his death at the hands of a tiger. Consequently, the King banned the hunting of tigers in his state. He levied tax on people when he could not find a tiger in their village. He failed to realize that even if the tigers became extinct, he would still meet his death. The irony lies in the point that the tiger which caused the death of the Tiger King was a wooden one. Thus the hundredth tiger made of wood took its revenge upon the Tiger King. This shows how insignificant the will of man against the divine scheme of things is.

3. What is the author's indirect comment on subjecting innocent animals to the willfulness of human beings?

Answer: Kalki, in "The Tiger King" does not make any comment on torture towards animals. But as the story progresses, the subjection of innocent animals to gruesome death gets clear. The Tiger King wanted to prove his invincibility and as a result he drove an entire species to extinction. He fails to understand that even if the tigers became extinct, he would still meet his death. Towards the end, we get a picture of the King's son playing with a tiger toy. Perhaps, he would never see a live tiger. It is the outcome of his own father who wanted to attain immortality by killing hundred tigers. In the same way, animals are subjected to similar torture for human gains. Animals are slaughtered to fulfill human greed. Excuses are made by calling it medicinal or aphrodisiac and in many occasions fashion or food.

Thus, we see that the author of 'The Tiger King' uses indirect comment on subjecting innocent animals to the willfulness of human beings.

Short-answer questions:

Q.1. In what way was the Prince Jung Jung Bahadur brought up?

Ans: The crown Prince Jung Jung Bahadur was brought up with a silver spoon in his mouth. He drank the milk of an English cow. An English nurse was engaged to look after him. He was tutored by an English

teacher and he watched English films. When he reached the age of twenty, he became the Maharaja of his state.

Q.2. What predictions did the astrologers make at the birth of the tiger king?

Ans: The astrologers predicted that the newly born prince will grow up to become the hero of heroes, brave of the bravest and a great warrior. The chief astrologer declared that the baby was born in the hour of the bull. Since the bull and tiger were enemies, the prince would die at the hands of a tiger.

Q.3. How was the hundredth tiger arranged by Dewan for the King's hunting?

Ans: The Dewan sensed the harsh consequence of not finding a tiger for the King. Therefore, he arranged a tiger from the People's Park in Madras. He brought it secretly into the forest where the King would hunt. Next day the same old tiger wandered into the King's presence and stood amicably to be aimed at by the king. In this way the hundredth tiger was arranged by the Dewan.

Q.4. How did the hundredth tiger take its revenge upon the Tiger King?

Ans: The King brought a wooden tiger made by an unskilled carpenter as a gift from a shop. It had small slivers of wood on its surface. While the king and his son played with the wooden tiger, a sliver pierced his right hand. He pulled it out but it turned up into infection and developed into a suppurating sore which spread all over the arm. The Maharaja died during the operation. In this way the hundredth tiger, a wooden one, killed the King.

Q.5 Who is the Tiger King? Why does he get that name?

Ans: The Maharaja of Pratibandapuram, Jilani Jung Jung Bahadur, is the Tiger King. He gets the name from his mission to prove the forecast of the astrologers wrong. He was bent on killing hundred tigers and that was his sole mission.

Q. 6 What did the Tiger King decide after the tiger population became extinct in the forests of Pratibandapuram?

Ans: After the tiger population became extinct in the forests of Pratibandapuram, the Tiger King decided to marry a girl from the royal family of a state with a large tiger population.

Q. 7 How many tigers did the Tiger King kill each time he visited his father-in-law?

Ans: Each time he visited his father-in-law, the Tiger King killed five or six tigers.