THE LADY OR THE TIGER

[1] Long ago, in very ancient times, there lived a powerful (1)_____. Some of his ideas were progressive, but others caused people to suffer. One of the emperor's ideas was a public arena as an agent of poetic (2)_____. Crime was punished, or innocence was decided, by the result of (3)_____. When a person was accused of a crime, his future would be judged in the public arena, where all the people would gather in this building.

[2] The emperor sat high on his ceremonial chair. He gave a sign, and the door under him opened. The (4)_____ person stepped out into the arena. Directly opposite the emperor were two doors. They were side by side, exactly alike. The person on (5)_____ had to walk directly to these doors and open one of them. He could open whichever door he pleased. If the accused man opened one door, out came a hungry tiger, the (6)_____ in the land. The tiger immediately jumped on him and tore him to pieces as punishment for his (7)_____. The case of the suspect was thus decided. But, if the accused opened the other door, there came forth from it a woman, chosen especially for the person. To this lady, he was immediately married in honor of his (8)_____. It was not a problem that he might already have a wife and family or that he might have chosen to marry another woman.

[3] The emperor permitted nothing to (9)_____ with his great method of punishment and reward. This was the emperor's method of carrying out justice. Its fairness appeared perfect. The accused person could not know which door was hiding the lady. He opened either as he pleased, without knowing whether, in the next minute, he was to be killed or married.

[4] One day, the emperor discovered the relationship between his daughter and the young man. The man was immediately put in (10)_____. A day was set for his trial in the emperor's public arena. This, of course, was an especially important event. Never before had a common subject been (11)_____enough to love the daughter of the emperor.

[5] The day of the trial arrived. From far and near, people gathered in the (12)_____ and outside its walls. The emperor and his (13)_____ were in their places opposite the two doors. All was ready. The sign was given. The door under the emperor opened, and the lover of the princess entered the arena. As the young man entered the arena, he turned to bow to the emperor. But he did not at all think of the great ruler. The young man's eyes were instead fixed on the princess, who sat to the right of her father. She knew behind which door stood the tiger and behind which door stood the lady.

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[6] Gold and the power of a woman's will had brought the (14)_____ to the princess. She also knew who the lady was. The lady was one of the loveliest in the kingdom. Now and then, the princess had seen her looking at and talking to the young man.

[7] The princess raised her hand and made a short, quick movement toward the right. No one but her lover saw it. Every eye but his was fixed on the man in the arena. He turned, and with a firm and quick step, he walked across the empty space. Every heart stopped beating. Every breath was held. Every eye was fixed on that man. He went to the door on the right and opened it. Now, did the tiger come out of that door, or did the lady?

D DISCUSSION

Justice

FAIR



UNFAIR

What do you think comes out of the door?

LADY



TIGER

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