

## 1 - READ AND COMPLETE WITH ONE WORD

... Sakeer had just finished telling the story of \_\_\_\_\_ (1) King of Yekahr's New Year Ceremony, while Prince of Lanling only stared indifferently into the dancing flames.

"That's exactly why I write them down."

"Stories never last."

"They won't disappear if they're recorded in a book."

Prince of Lanling stood up \_\_\_\_\_ (2) gestured at the courier station and the desert sands beyond the merchant road, "Alsahraa's not the same as it once was."

"The scenery is different, that's for sure." Sakeer gazed in the direction Prince of Lanling had pointed. "But now it holds innumerable new stories. Just like this courier station—I've never seen such a thing before."

Garo spoke up: "The people of Jade City built these stations. \_\_\_\_\_ (3) shelter travelers from the biting winds and sands. They're strung throughout the desert like beads on a thread."

"Look \_\_\_\_\_ (4) all these people here. They \_\_\_\_\_ (5) all sharing stories of their journey." Sakeer looked at all the nearby merchants eating from their dinner bowls as he spoke.

"When people tell their stories, that's when people grow closer."

\_\_\_\_\_ (6) smile appeared on Garo's face.

"Yekahr wasn't always like this. After the True King fell, all the surrounding kingdoms \_\_\_\_\_ (7) combined into one, ending a hundred years of chaos and strife for the entire region. People welcomed the new peace as they grew closer to one another. This \_\_\_\_\_ (8) of story happens everywhere, every day." A laugh sounded out from behind him.

He didn't know when, but the shopkeeper had come out to send off some customers and had overheard the party's discussion. The woman had witnessed many hardships, \_\_\_\_\_ (9) retained a graceful bearing.

However, her cheerful tone soon turned melancholic. "But in the end, the kingdom of Alsahraa crumbled... The scars left \_\_\_\_\_ (10) the fall of the True King seem to have left this land cursed..."



## 2 - ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

### 1 - What story did Sakeer finish telling?

- a. The story of the fall of the True King.
- b. The story of the King of Yekahr's New Year Ceremony.
- c. The story of the building of courier stations.
- d. The story of the merchants' journeys.

### 2 - How did Prince of Lanling react to Sakeer's story?

- a. With excitement and curiosity.
- b. With indifference, staring into the flames.
- c. By immediately leaving the gathering.
- d. By sharing his own story.

### 3 - What was Prince of Lanling's opinion about Alsahraa?

- a. He thought it was more beautiful than ever.
- b. He believed it hadn't changed at all.
- c. He said it was not the same as it once was.
- d. He thought it was a perfect place for new stories.

### 4 - Who built the courier stations, and what purpose do they serve?

- a. The people of Alsahraa, to store goods.
- b. The merchants, to rest during their journeys.
- c. The people of Jade City, to shelter travelers from winds and sands.
- d. The True King, to protect the kingdom.

### 5 - According to Garo, what happens when people tell their stories?

- a. They get tired and need rest.
- b. They forget their hardships.
- c. They grow closer to each other.
- d. They become famous.

### 6 - What historical event led to the end of a hundred years of chaos and strife in the region?

- a. The building of the courier stations.
- b. The rise of the True King.
- c. The fall of the True King.
- d. The creation of Jade City.

### 7 - How did the shopkeeper join the discussion, and what was her perspective?

- a. She arrived late and remained silent.
- b. She sent off customers and shared her melancholic view of Alsahraa's fall.
- c. She was invited by Sakeer and shared a cheerful story.
- d. She ignored the discussion and continued working.

### 8 - What melancholic fact did the shopkeeper share about the kingdom of Alsahraa?

- a. It had become more prosperous over time.
- b. It had built new and improved courier stations.
- c. It had crumbled, and the scars of the True King's fall left it cursed.
- d. It had united all surrounding kingdoms successfully.