Chapter 14: The Story of the River Ganga

Fill in the Blanks

1. King Sagara performed the _____ yagya (horse sacrifice) to establish the boundaries of his empire.
2. Indra, the king of Gods, stole the horse and hid it because he was unhappy with Sagara's _____ sons.
3. Kapila Muni turned Sagara's sons into _____ when they disturbed his meditation.
4. To liberate the souls of Sagara's sons, their ashes needed to be washed in the waters of the _____.
5. Bhagiratha prayed to _____ to bring the Ganga down to earth.
6. Brahma warned that only _____ could withstand Ganga's forceful descent.
7. Ganga, full of pride, tried to sweep away Shiva but was trapped in his _____.
8. Shiva released Ganga gently, splitting her into _____ streams.
9. Bhagiratha performed the last rites for his ancestors near the _____ that followed his chariot.
10. Ishaan questioned why the holy Ganga is _____ despite its spiritual significance.

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Multiple Choice Questions

1. Why did King Sagara perform the aswamedha yagya?

a) To declare war on neighboring kingdoms and expand his territory by force.
b) To please the gods by sacrificing animals in exchange for wealth and power.
c) To test the loyalty of his sixty thousand sons by assigning them to guard the horse.
d) To establish his sovereignty by letting the horse roam freely, challenging others to contest his authority.

2. Why did Indra steal the sacrificial horse?

a) The gods believed Sagara's cruel sons were a threat to the world and sought to provoke a conflict.
b) He envied King Sagara's wealth and wanted to weaken his empire.
c) The horse was divine property, and Indra wanted to return it to heaven.
d) Kapila Muni secretly ordered Indra to hide the horse as part of a test.

3. What was the consequence of Sagara's sons disturbing Kapila Muni's meditation?

a) They were cursed to wander the earth as ghosts for eternity.
b) Kapila Muni forgave them but demanded they retrieve the horse.
c) They were instantly reduced to ashes by the sage's wrathful gaze.
d) They were transformed into stones and scattered across the Himalayas.

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4. Why did Bhagiratha undertake severe penance in the Himalayas?

a) To atone for his ancestors' sins and cleanse their souls with Ganga's waters.
b) To gain immortality and rule his kingdom forever.
c) To convince Shiva to marry Ganga and unite heaven and earth.
d) To learn divine secrets from the sage Kapila Muni.

5. Why did Brahma insist that Shiva intervene to bring Ganga to earth?

a) Shiva's strength was needed to split Ganga into seven streams for irrigation.
b) The earth could not withstand Ganga's violent force without Shiva cushioning her fall.
c) Ganga refused to descend unless Shiva personally escorted her.
d) Brahma wanted to test Shiva's devotion to Bhagiratha.

6. How did Shiva humble Ganga's pride?

a) By trapping her in his matted hair and releasing her as a gentle stream.
b) By diverting her flow into a barren desert to punish her arrogance.
c) By commanding her to serve as a servant in Bhagiratha's palace.
d) By merging her with a smaller river to dilute her power.

7. What symbolic role does Ganga's descent play in the story?

a) It represents the cyclical nature of life and death in Hindu philosophy.
b) It illustrates the clash between divine will and human ambition.

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c) It embodies purification, linking earthly suffering to spiritual liberation.

d) It warns against the dangers of unchecked pride in both gods and humans.

8. What modern dilemma does Ishaan highlight at the end of the story?

a) The conflict between traditional rituals and scientific environmentalism.

b) Why people worship Ganga as holy yet pollute her waters with waste and ashes.

c) Whether divine rivers should be privatized for better management.

d) The need to replace ancient myths with rational explanations.

9. Which character's actions best exemplify devotion and perseverance?

a) Indra, for protecting cosmic balance by stealing the horse.

b) Kapila Muni, for teaching a moral lesson through his curse.

c) Ganga, for agreeing to descend despite her pride.

d) Bhagiratha, for enduring penance to fulfill his ancestors' redemption.

10. What is the overarching message of the chapter?

a) Absolute power corrupts, as seen in Sagara's sons' arrogance.

b) Spiritual purity requires both divine intervention and human effort.

c) Environmental degradation is an inevitable result of religious practices.

d) Legends about rivers are mere myths with no modern relevance.

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