THE PURE SPRING

Three travelers met near one spring.

The spring was flowing from stony place. Around it the dense forest grew, the leaves and branches of its trees shaded the spring. The water in it was clear, cold as ice, and glimmered like the glass. Somebody has laid the stone on the place from where the spring took off. The stone was as large as cauldron, there was a hole drilled in it for the water to flow easily and the caption above that hole "Dear traveler, let you be as pure as this spring."

After three travelers drunk enough water to satisfy their thirst, they read those words and one of them, who seemed to be some merchant, said, "These are wise words. The rill from this spring is running days and nights without a moments rest. It flows to the lands far away. The farer it flows, the more rills join it, and finally it becomes a wide river. Here is the outcome of it. We, the men, shall also work without a rest, never stop and never give up before the laziness. If we do so, in the end we'll be great and powerful like that river."

The third traveler was a poor mullah. He shook his head and said, "No, I do not think so. The meaning of this caption is deeper than you think. The spring is open for everybody. To those, who suffer from the heat, it gives the cold and pleasures their hearts, for those, who are thirsty, it gives water and does not ask for reward for it. From this we may conclude, that the meaning of this caption is following: when you do good things for people, do not ask for reward for your goodness."

The third traveler was thin and handsome young man, who stood silent. Then his friends asked him, what did he think of it.

The young man replied, "I think different. If the water in this spring stood still, the grass and leaves around it would spoil it and it would become dirty. Then people and animals would not love the spring so much. But as long as water in this spring flows days and nights, it stays pure and this is why this spring is so loved. Thus, the meaning of those words is following. Keep your body and your soul pure as this spring. When somebody looks into its water, they see the reflection of sunshine, the sky, and the grass. This is why the soul should be maintained as pure as this spring — let everything be seen there as well. This is what the meaning of this caption is."

Task 1. Which title fits best?

1. How the Spring became a Powerful River
2. The symbolism of the Pure Spring and its Message
3. Why water is important for Human existence

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Task 2. Read the text and fill in the gaps with the words in the box

river powerful reward forest soul
cauldron traveler body

1.Around it the dense _____ grew, the leaves and branches of its trees shaded the spring.
2. The stone was as large as _____, there was a hole drilled in it for the water to flow easily and the caption above that hole "Dear ____, let you be as pure as this spring."
3. If we do so, in the end we'll be great and _____ like that _____.
4. When you do good things for people, do not ask for _____ for your goodness.
5. Keep your _____ and your _____ pure as this spring.

Task 3. Read the text again and answer the questions true/false by ticking the box.

1. The spring was located in a sunny area.	T	F
2. The caption above the hole in the stone said, "Dear traveler, let you be as pure as this spring."	T	F
3. The merchant traveler believed that working without rest would make them great and powerful.	T	F
4. The poor mullah traveler believed that doing good things for people should be rewarded.	T	F
5. The young man traveler believed that the soul should be kept pure like the spring.	T	F
6. The young man traveler believed that the reflection of sunshine, sky, and grass could be seen in the spring.	T	F

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