

A PRUDENT BOY

One scientist was walking along the road through desolated prairie. He stumbled over the stone and thought, "This stone can make somebody great harm. I shall better take it away from the road."

He lifted the stone and saw little chest under it. He opened the chest and little snake crawled out of it. It attacked the scientist and tried to bite him, but he said, "I set you free from that dark and narrow box, where you were enslaved. Shall good things be paid with bad?"

"Yes," the snake answered.

"Let us ask somebody else. If it appears that you are right, you may bite me then." The scientist suggested.

Snake agreed to that. So they went on together and after some time they met camel. They had told him what happened and asked him for advice. Camel listened to them and said, "It is true, good things are always paid for with bad. No matter how hard I work for my master, no matter how many loads I had carried for him during my life, whenever he makes me carry the load too hard for me and I stop, he beats me and tortures me for that."

When the snake heard it, it wrapped itself around scientist's neck.

After that they came to the fruit tree and asked it of its opinion. The three answered, "The good things are always paid for with bad. No matter how many of my fruits men take, no matter how kindly I help them feed themselves, they still do not pick my fruits with their hands without hurting me. Instead, they beat my body with sticks until I drop them all myself."

Then the snake wrapped itself around scientist's neck for second time.

They went along and this time they met a dog. The dog said, "The good is always paid with evil. I was a ward for a man for so many years, I didn't sleep, I protected his property and his cattle before thieves, but when I got old and thick, he didn't thank me, instead, he beat me with his stick and kicked me off from the yard."

The snake wrapped itself around scientist's neck for third time and prepared to bite him, but scientist began to ask, "Let us go and ask somebody for one last time, and if this time you'll appear to be right again, then you really may bite me."

Then they approached few boys, who were playing. One of them greeted scientist. Scientist answered to his greeting and told the boy what is happening. The boy listened to his story and said, "No, it can not be true. This snake is large enough to wrap itself around your neck for three times and you say you have found it in such a little chest. Who would be so stupid to believe you?"

"It is all true," replied the snake.

But boy refused to believe it and said that no one else would believe such story unless they saw it with their own eyes. So the snake decided to prove the boy that story was true. It crawled back into the box. As soon it did, boy closed the chest cover, locked it and returned it to scientist saying, "Take this chest and bring it back to the place where you had found it."

Read the text and answer the questions.

- 1) Why did the scientist decide to take the stone away from the road?
 - a. He wanted to prevent someone from getting hurt.
 - b. He thought the stone was valuable.
 - c. He wanted to use the stone as a weapon.

- 2) According to the camel, how does the master treat him when he stops working?
 - a. He rewards him for his hard work.
 - b. He beats and tortures him.
 - c. He gives him extra food.

- 3) What complaint did the fruit tree have about humans?
 - a. They take its fruits without permission.
 - b. They hurt it when picking its fruits.
 - c. They don't appreciate its help.

Are these statements true or false? Put a tick in the correct box.

	TRUE	FALSE
1) The fruit tree said that humans pick its fruits without hurting it.	☐	☐
2) The scientist and the snake met a camel on their journey.	☐	☐
3) The scientist and the snake encountered a fruit tree.	☐	☐
4) The snake attacked the scientist when he opened the chest..	☐	☐
5) The stone was hiding a little chest..	☐	☐