

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.

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.

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.

- 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.

