Chapter 2: The Donkey and the load of Salt

Summary

- Long ago there lived a merchant who sells salt.
- His donkey carries the salt to other villages.
- One day the donkey accidentally falls into a stream, and the salt dissolves, making his load lighter.
- Next time, he intentionally falls to make his load light again.
- The merchant notices the donkey's trick and decides to teach him a lesson.
- The merchant loads the donkey with cotton instead of salt.
- When the donkey falls into the stream, the cotton absorbs water and becomes very heavy.
- The donkey struggles with the heavy load and stops playing tricks.
- He learns that cheating doesn't work forever.
- Moral: "You can fool someone a few times, but not always."

Hindi Translation

अध्याय के बारे में: *यह कहानी एक व्यापारी और उसके गधे की है। इसमें, गधा अपने मालिक को अपने आराम के लिए कई बार बेवकूफ बनाता है, लेकिन जब मालिक को उसकी चाल समझ में आती है, तो वह भी उसे सबक सिखाता है। आइए, कहानी पढ़ते हैं और जानते हैं कि वह सबक क्या था।*

बहुत समय पहले की बात है। एक व्यापारी रहता था। वह नमक बेचने का काम करता था। उसके पास एक गधा था जो नमक का बोझ ढोता था। व्यापारी गधे पर नमक लादकर दूसरे गाँव में बेचने जाता था। रास्ते में एक नदी पार करनी पड़ती थी।

एक दिन, गधा नदी में गिर गया। नमक पानी में घुल गया, और बोझ हल्का हो गया। गधा आसानी से नदी पार कर गया और खुश हुआ।

अगली बार, गधे ने जानबूझकर नदी में गिरने की चाल चली। व्यापारी को उसकी चालाकी पर शक हुआ। तीसरी बार, गधे ने फिर वही चाल चली। अब व्यापारी को यकीन हो गया कि गधा जानबूझकर ऐसा कर रहा है। अगले दिन, व्यापारी ने गधे पर नमक की जगह रुई लाद दी। गधा फिर नदी में गिरा, लेकिन इस बार रुई ने पानी सोख लिया और बोझ बहुत भारी हो गया।

गधे को मुश्किल से चलना पड़ा। उसे अपनी गलती समझ में आ गई। उसने फिर कभी नदी में गिरने की चाल नहीं चली। उसे एहसास हुआ कि चालाकी करना अच्छा नहीं है। व्यापारी ने गधे को अच्छा सबक सिखा दिया।

शिक्षा: "तुम किसी को कुछ बार बेवकूफ बना सकते हो, लेकिन हमेशा नहीं।"

Use the words from the box and complete the sentences.

Word Bank: *merchant, donkey, salt, stream, trick, cotton, heavy, lesson, intentionally, dissolve*

1. The _____ used his _____ to carry loads of salt to the market.

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2. When the donkey fell into the _____, the salt would _____ in the water.
3. After the salt dissolved, the load became lighter and the _____ was happy.
4. The donkey _____ fell into the stream again because he wanted to play a _____.
5. The clever merchant loaded _____ instead of salt to teach the donkey a _____.
6. When the cotton got wet, it became very _____ and difficult to carry.
7. The donkey learned his _____ and stopped falling into the water.
8. The _____ was very smart and found a way to stop the donkey's tricks.
9. The story teaches us that _____ others doesn't work forever.
10. Water makes salt _____ but makes cotton heavier.

Choose the best answer for each question.

1. Why did the donkey first fall into the stream?

a. He wanted to take a bath
b. He was playing hide-and-seek
c. It was an accident while crossing
d. He saw fish in the water

2. How did the donkey feel after his load became lighter?

a. Sad and crying
b. Happy and relieved
c. Angry at the merchant

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d. Scared of the water

3. What was the donkey's biggest mistake?

a. He didn't eat his breakfast

b. He forgot the merchant's name

c. He didn't like the colour of the salt

d. He thought the same trick would always work

4. Why did the merchant choose cotton for his trick?

a. Cotton gets heavier when wet

b. Cotton was the cheapest thing available

c. The donkey liked cotton

d. Cotton comes in pretty colours

5. How did the donkey probably feel carrying the wet cotton?

a. Like he was flying

b. Tired and uncomfortable

c. Very proud of himself

d. Ready for another swim

6. What lesson should the donkey have learned earlier?

a. Swimming is dangerous

b. Merchants are always smarter

c. Being honest is better than tricking

d. Salt tastes better than cotton

7. If the donkey could talk, what might he say after learning his lesson?

a. "I'll take baths at home instead"

b. "I'll work hard without tricks"

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c. "I want to be a merchant now"

d. "Let's throw the merchant in the water"

8. Why didn't the merchant get angry after the first accident?

a. He knew it wasn't on purpose

b. He was afraid of the donkey

c. He had lots of extra salt

d. He was sleeping that day

9. What would be a good way for the donkey to make his work easier?

a. Ask the merchant for shorter trips

b. Carry less salt each time

c. Take more breaks to rest

d. All of the above

10. How can we use this story in our lives?

a. Always be honest in our work

b. Think before we trick others

c. Understand that actions have consequences

d. All of the above

Write the synonyms and antonyms of the following words. Also use these word in the sentences of your own.

Word	Synonyms	Antonyms	Sentence
1. Merchant			
2. Suspect			

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3. Stream			
4. Evil			
5. Dissolve			
6. Tiring			
7. Knowingly			
8. Realised			

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