

Subject - English

Class - ix

Date - 18.09.21

The Happy Prince line by line explanation -

At that moment a curious crack sounded inside the statue, as if something had broken. The fact is that the leaden heart had snapped right in two. It certainly was a dreadfully hard frost.

As soon as the bird died on the Happy Prince's feet, an unusual sound came out from the statue. The sound was of the breaking of the statue's heart which was made of a lead. The heart broke because of the death of his beloved bird. But it is said that it was so cold that the heart broke into two pieces.

Early the next morning the Mayor was walking in the square below in company with the Town Councillors. As they passed the column he looked up at the statue. "Dear me! How shabby the Happy Prince looks!" he said.

shabby (untidy)

The next morning the Mayor of the city along with his councillors was taking a round of the area where the statue of Happy Prince was erected and when he crossed the statue and looked up at it, he said that the statue of Happy prince looked untidy.

"How shabby, indeed!" cried the Town Councillors, who always agreed with the Mayor and they went up to look at it.

The councillors always agreed with whatever the Mayor used to say, so, they also asserted that the statue looked untidy.

"The ruby has fallen out of his sword, his eyes are gone, and he is golden no longer," said the Mayor.

The Mayor noticed that the ruby stone which was placed in the handle of the sword was missing, the sapphires from the statue's eyes were also missing and the layer of the gold from its body was also missing.

"In fact, he is little better than a beggar!"

"Little better than a beggar," said the Town Councillors.

The Mayor said that it seemed as if it was the statue of a beggar and the town councillors agreed with him.

“And here is actually a dead bird at his feet!” continued the Mayor. “We must really issue a proclamation that birds are not to be allowed to die here.” And the Town Clerk made a note of the suggestion.

proclamation: order, rule

The Mayor noticed that a dead bird was lying on the feet of the statue. Then he told the town councilors to pass an order that birds were not allowed to die on the feet of the statue and the town clerk made a note of the suggestion given by him.

So they pulled down the statue of the Happy Prince. “As he is no longer beautiful he is no longer useful,” said the Art Professor at the University.

The Art Professor of the University said that now, the statue of the Happy Prince did not look beautiful and was not useful anymore and so, they should demolish it.

Then they melted the statue in a furnace.

furnace: is a fire place where metal are melted

So they melted the statue which was made of lead in a furnace.

“What a strange thing!” said the overseer of the workmen at the foundry.

overseer: supervisor

foundry: workshop for casting metals

The supervisor of the foundry saw a strange thing.

“This broken lead heart will not melt in the furnace. We must throw it away.”

The heart of the Happy Prince’s statue which was broken into two pieces was not melting in the furnace. So, they threw it as it is in the dust heap.

So they threw it on a dust heap where the dead swallow was also lying.

Coincidentally, they threw the heart of the Happy Prince where the dead swallow was also lying.

Bring me the two most precious things in the city,” said God to one of His Angels; and the Angel brought Him the leaden heart and the dead bird.

God asked one of his Angels to bring him the two most precious things of the city. The Angel brought the two pieces of heart of the statue and the dead swallow bird.

“You have rightly chosen,” said God, “for in my garden of Paradise this little bird shall sing for ever more and in my city of gold the Happy Prince shall praise me.”

God said to the Angel that it had brought the right thing. It had chosen the right things which were indeed the most precious things of the city. He said that the bird would always sing in the garden of his Paradise and the Happy Prince would stay in his city of gold and admire him.

Questions & Answers of The Happy Prince -

Question 1.

Why do the courtiers call the prince ‘the Happy Prince’? Is he really happy? What does he see all around him?

Answer:

He was a prince when he was alive. Being a prince he never knew sorrow and suffering. So, the courtiers called him ‘the happy prince’. But he was not happy in real sense as his heart could feel the misery of needy people. He saw the miserable conditions of people around him.

Question 2.

Why does the Happy Prince send a ruby for the seamstress? What does the swallow do in the seamstress’ house?

Answer:

The seamstress was tired due to overwork. She was so poor that she could not buy oranges for her little sick son. Her son was thirsty. The Happy Prince saw the poor lady and her son. He felt pity for them. So, he sent a ruby for her. The swallow came to the poor woman’s house and laid the ruby on the table beside her. The bird fanned the boy’s forehead with wings and flew back to the Happy Prince.

Question 3.

For whom does the prince send the sapphires and why?

Answer:

The playwright was very poor. He was incapable of buying food and firewood. The prince sent the sapphires for the playwright so that he could finish a play for the director of the theatre into the gutter. She was afraid that her father would beat her for this loss. So, she was helped by the prince by sending her the second sapphire.

Question 4.

What does the swallow see when it was flying over the city?

Answer:

The swallow saw all categories of people. He found the rich making merry in their beautiful houses and beggars begging sitting at the gates. He also saw a group of wandering children who were poverty- stricken.

Question 5.

Why did the swallow not leave the prince and go to Egypt?

Answer:

At first, the swallow was willing to go to Egypt just after discharging his duty properly. But when he saw Prince's activities of charity and kindness he got impressed. On the other hand now the Happy Prince had become totally blind due to the deeds of charity. In this condition, he could not leave the Prince helpless. He left the idea of going to Egypt and decided to serve the Prince.

Question 6.

What are the precious things mentioned in the story? Why are they precious?

Answer:

The leaden heart of the Happy Prince and the dead swallow are the two precious things mentioned in the story. They are precious as they did various deeds for the welfare of people and sacrificed their lives for the sake of others.