

Tansen

Learning Objectives:

To enable students to:

- know about Tansen – the legendary musician of India.
- identify and understand the role of a teacher in leading a student to great heights.
- understand the magic of music.
- differentiate between Raga Deepak and Raga Megh.
- share and confirm their responses and appreciation with the teacher and the peer group.
- use new words and phrases in their own language.

Pre Reading Activity

REFER TO EXPLANATORY CONTENT POINT 1.

QUES: What was Tansen Famous for?

While Reading :

New Words

Imitate- copy the speech, actions, dress etc. of somebody

Ravi can imitate anyone with ease..

Talented- gifted

Sunidhi Chauhan is a talented singer.

Jealous- envious

My relatives are jealous of my success.

Downcast- depressed, sad

Param seemed quite downcast at the news.

Rejoice – celebrate

The parents rejoiced at the exemplary performance of their child in boards exams.

Key Points:

SUMMARY

Tansen was the greatest musician of our country. He was the only child of Mukandan Mishra, a singer who lived in Behat near Gwalior. As a naughty child Tansen often ran away to play in the forest and imitated perfectly the calls of birds and animals.

Swami Haridas, a famous singer, while was once travelling through the forest with his disciples identified Tansens talent when he imitated a tiger roar. He convinced his father that Tansen could become a good singer. So Tansen left home at the age of ten and lived with Swamiji and learnt music for eleven years and thus he became a great singer.

Tansen's father's dying wish was that Tansen should visit Mohammad Ghaus of Gwalior. Tansen was often taken to the court of Rani Mrignaini, while living in Gwalior with Mohammad Ghaus. She was a great musician herself. There he married Hussaini, who became a disciple of Swami Haridas.

Tansen went on to become very famous. Impressed by Tansen Emperor Akbar insisted him to join his court. After joining Akbar's court in 1556, Tansen soon became a great favourite of the Emperor.

Some of the courtiers became jealous of Tansen and wished to see him ruined. Shaukat Mian, a courtier plotted to get him killed. He convinced emperor Akbar to ask Tansen to sing dangerous raag Deepak.

Tansen could not disobey the Emperor, when he was ordered to sing Raga Deepak. But Tansen requested the Emperor to give him time to prepare himself. During this time, Tansen taught his daughter Saraswati and her friend Rupvati to sing Raga Megh, which will bring rain.

Tansen started singing Raga Deepak on the appointed day. The air became warm, the trees dried up, birds fell dead, flames shut up out of nowhere and lighted the lamps. Just then the two girls began to sing Raga Megh which brought the rain and Tansen was saved.

As a consequence, Tansen fell very ill. Akbar understood the conspiracy and punished Tansen's enemies. The entire city rejoiced when Tansen got well. Tansen remained Akbar's court singer till 1585 when he died.

Post Reading Activity

Project:

Prepare a comic strip based on the life of Tansen.