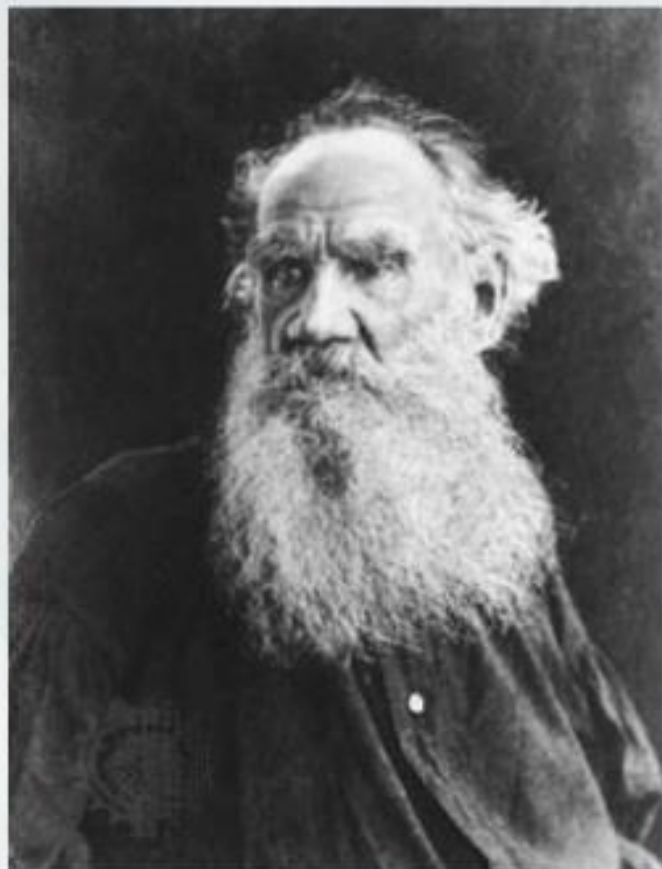


THREE QUESTIONS

BY- LEO TOLSTOY

Leo Tolstoy

1828 - 1910



- 19th century Russian prose writer.
- Dissident, religious thinker and social reformer.
- *Anna Karenina* (1875-77) and *War and Peace* (1869) are considered literary masterpieces.

Image Source: Credo Reference
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Once there was a king who thought that to be a successful ruler he must know the answer of three questions.

- **What is the right time to begin something?**
- **Which people should he listen to?**
- **What is the most important thing for him to do?**



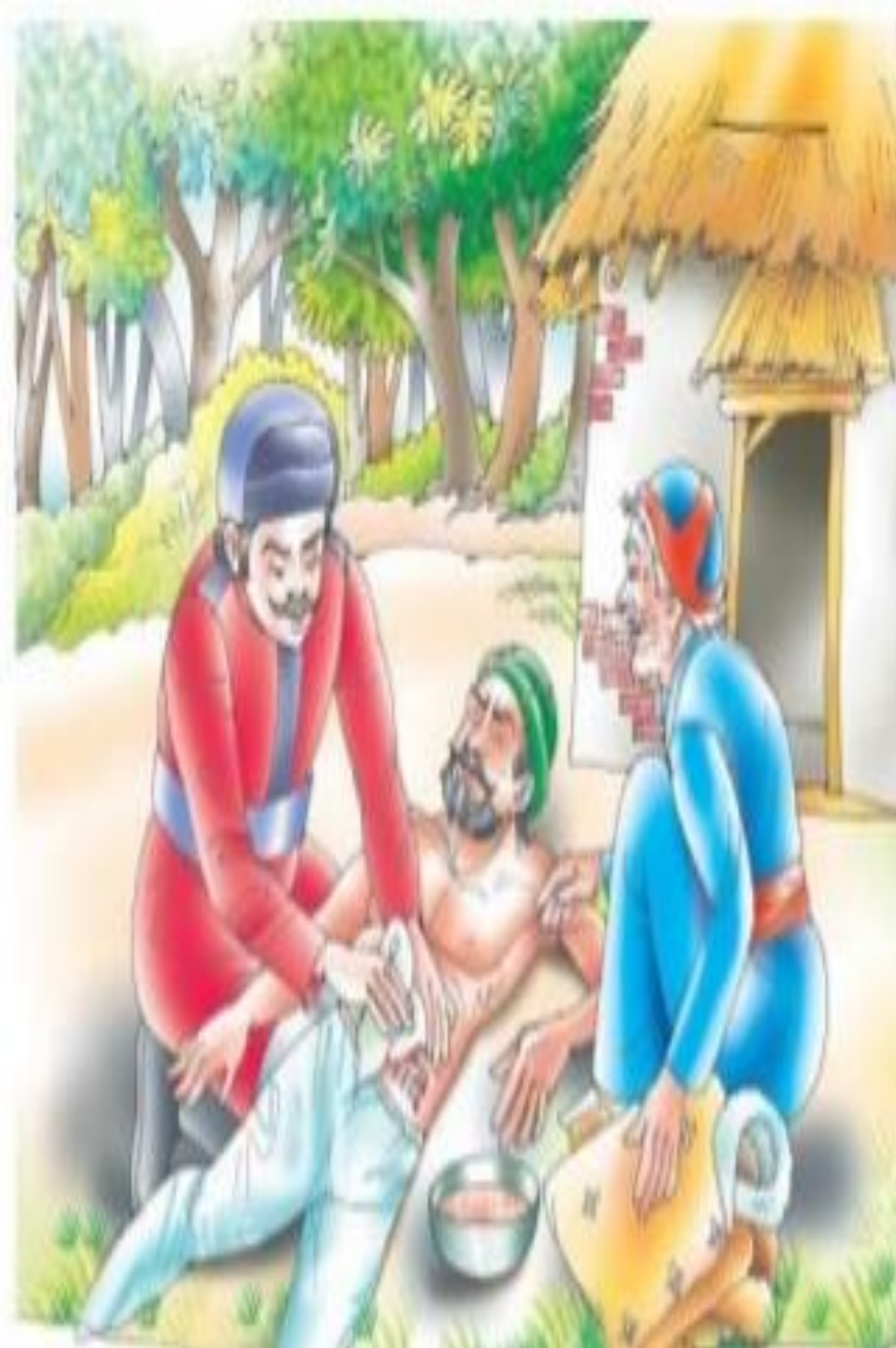
The king sent messengers in all directions to find wise people who could answer his questions. Many wise men came but their answers were all different. The king was not satisfied with the answers.



The king decided to seek consultation of a wise hermit who lived in the jungle. The king dressed up like a common man. The hermit was an old man and was busy digging the ground. The king asked questions to him but he did not respond

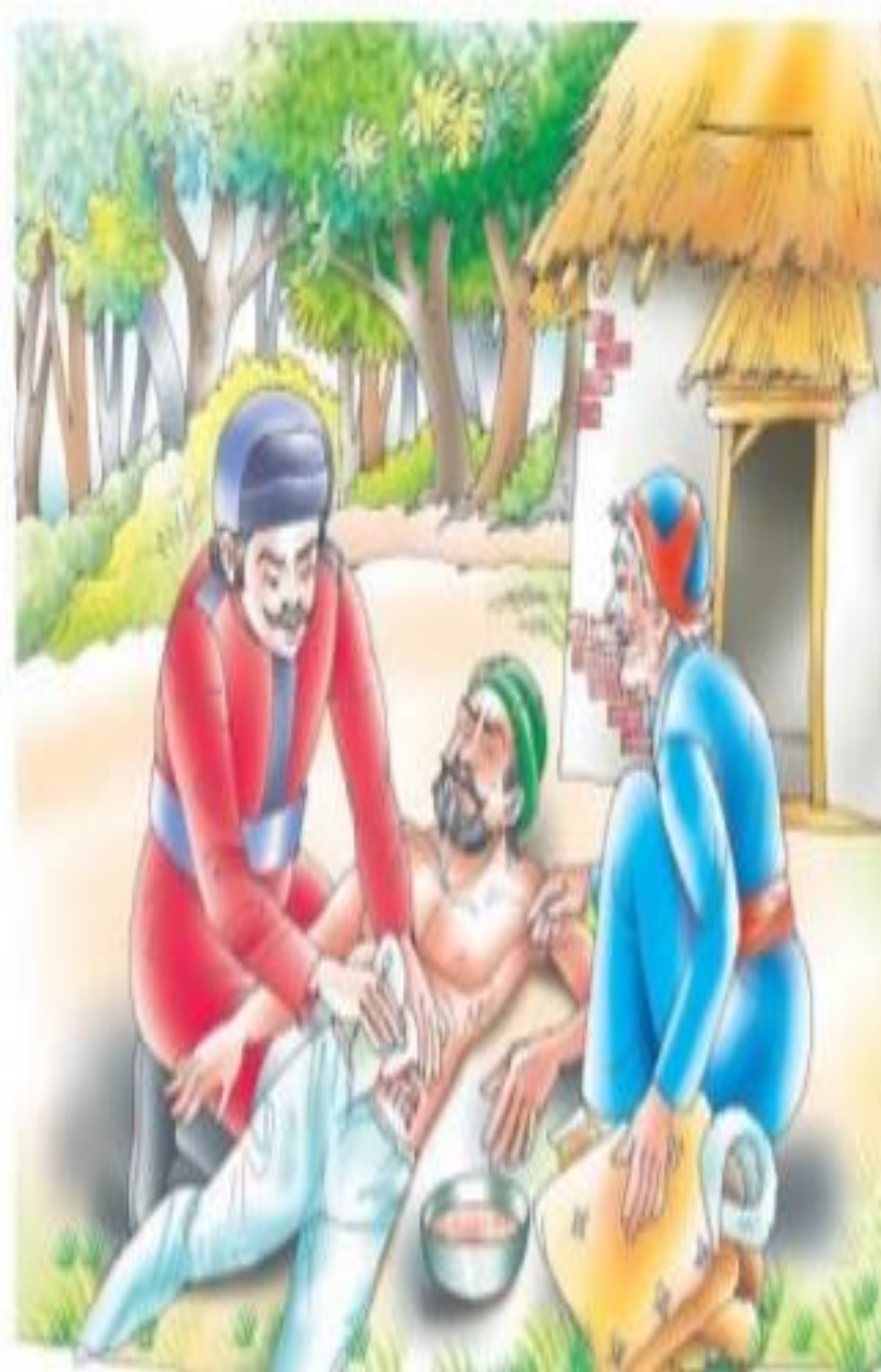


The king seeing the hermit to be tired offered his help and continued digging the ground till evening. In the evening the king again requested the hermit to answer his questions.



At that moment a man came running towards the hermit's hut with a hand on his wounded stomach. The king cleaned and dressed the wound and gave him water.

In the morning that injured man asked for king's forgiveness and told him that he was his enemy as he had seized his property and killed his brother .He wanted to take revenge from king.



But the king's bodyguard wounded him. He would have died if the king would not have helped him.

The king became happy to turn his enemy into a friend. He forgave him.



Then the king again asked his questions to hermit, the hermit replied that he had already found the answers. The hermit said

- The most important time is our present because it is the only moment when we have the power to act.**
- The most important person is the person who is with us at that moment.**
- The most important business is to be kind and good to others because we have been sent in this world to serve others.**

KEYWORDS

- **Council**- an advisory
- **Hermit**- a person living a simple life alone
- **Seek**- attempt to find
- **Widely known**- familiar
- **Seized**-take hold of something forcibly
- **Pity**- to sympathize
- **Made peace with**- to establish peace

MORAL OF THE LESSON

- To live in the present moment, rather than grumbling about the past and being anxious about tomorrow.
- We ought to consider every person we meet in the moment as significant beings, whether it is a poor or a rich man.
- The most important thing is to do good to the person you are with.