

In the Kingdom of Fools

by

A.K. Ramanujan

Handout

Module - II

Summary of the second part

When the servants searched for a fat man, their eyes fell on the disciple, a bulky fellow now. Though he pleaded that he was an innocent sanyasi, the servants did not listen to him and carried him to the place of execution. When he was face to face with death, he remembered guru's words of wisdom that it was unsafe to live there. Anyway he prayed to his guru to hear his cry. The guru, who had magical powers, knew everything in a vision and rushed to save his disciple. As soon as he arrived, he scolded disciple first and then whispered him something. It was part of a master plan hatched by guru to save his disciple's life. Soon there started a row between them about who would die first on the stake. Seeing this the king was puzzled. He asked the guru why they were competing to die like that. Then the guru told him secretly that the newly made stake was the stake of god of justice and since it was never used, the one who would die first on it would be reborn as a king and the second as a minister in that kingdom. The king was thrown into a deep thought. He discussed the matter with his minister. Since both of them didn't want to lose the power and kingdom in their next birth also, they decided that they would go on the stake and get killed. Thus both of them went to the prison secretly at night, released the guru and disciple, put themselves into their places and promptly got executed.

The people were shocked to know the sudden death of king and minister. They discussed the future of the kingdom and all on a sudden thought of the guru and disciple. They were actually planning to leave the city secretly. The people approached them and requested them to be their new king and minister. After some hesitation the guru agreed to rule the kingdom on the condition that they would change all the foolish old laws. The night would again be night and the day would again be day and nothing could be bought with a duddu. Thus eventually the kingdom of fools became like any other place.

Highlights of the second part

The disciple is in trouble

The disciple was found fit for the stake. He was brought to the place for execution. The disciple now remembered his wise guru's words. He prayed to his guru. The guru had magic powers. He saw everything. He arrived at once to save his disciple. He told his disciple something in a low voice. The disciple understood this.

The guru's trick to save his disciple

The guru and the disciple now started fighting. The guru wanted to die first. The king asked the guru why he wanted to die. The guru told the king in his ears that their city was unique. This was the stake of god of justice. The stake was new. It was never used earlier on criminals. Whoever died on it first, would be born a king. Whoever died next, would be born as a minister.

The king decides to die

The king thought over the whole case. He didn't want to lose the kingdom even in his next birth also. So he talked to his minister. The king said that they would go on stake themselves. Thus they would be reborn as king and minister again. The king and minister went secretly to the prison. They released the guru and the disciple. They put themselves in their places. So they were taken to the stake and executed.

The guru and disciple become the king and the minister

The public got shocked by the unexpected death of both. The people mourned their deaths. They discussed the future of the kingdom. Suddenly some people thought of the guru and the disciple. They were secretly leaving the city. People saw them. They requested them to be their new king and the minister. But they put one condition. It was to change all the old laws. On agreement, they became the new king and minister and the kingdom of fools thus eventually became like any other place.
