



INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
SENIOR SECTION
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
CLASS IX
WORKSHEET
KATHMANDU
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SUMMARY

The lesson Kathmandu is a description of the two famous temples of that city. One is the Pashupatinath Temple. The other is the Baudhnath Stupa, the Buddhist shrine of Kathmandu. At Pashupatinath Temple a sign proclaims 'Entrance for the Hindus only'. There is much crowd and utter confusion. All sorts of animals roam around the grounds. People are pushing to make their way to the Lord. A group of Westerners claims itself to be Hindus and are asking for permission to come in, but the policeman at the gate is not convinced. Monkeys can be seen fighting.

The holy Bagmati flows by the side of the temple. It has washerwomen on its banks. There is also a small shrine on the river bank. It seems that half of the shrine is in the river and half out of it. The people believe that the whole shrine will come out of the temple on day. Then the goddess inside will escape and the period of 'Kaliyug' will be over.

At the Baudhnath Stupa, there is a sense of stillness. There is a road running around the temple. Small shops of Tibetan immigrants stand on its outer edge. There is no crowd here. Kathmandu is a crowded place. There are deities in the busiest streets which are crowded with fruit sellers, flute sellers, hawkers of postcards, etc. The shops sell western cosmetics, film rolls and chocolates. The author indulges himself here mindlessly. Then, he decides to go back home. He buys his ticket and comes back to his hotel.

In a corner of the square near the hotel, a flute seller catches his attention. His carefree style pleases him. It reminds him of the commonality of all mankind. There is no culture that does not have its flute. The deep 'bansuri' is of Hindustani classical music. The flutes of South America are clear and breathy. The Chinese ones are high pitched. The music of the flutes is universal. The author is affected by the phrases on the 'bansuri'.

I. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow :

1) In this hand is a pole with an attachment at the top from which fifty or sixty bonsais protrude in all directions, like the quills of a porcupine....

a) What did the flute seller carry?

- b) How many flutes did the seller have?
- c) What does the flute seller do from time to time?
- d) Which word in the passage stands for 'reflectively'?

2) I consider what route I should take back home. If I were propelled by enthusiasm for travel per se, I would go by bus and train to Patna, then sail up the Ganges past Benaras to Allahabad, then up the Yamuna, past Agra to Delhi.

- a) Who is 'I' in the extract and what was his initial plan to go back home?
- b) Why did he change his mind ?
- c) What did he do then?
- d) Pick a word from the passage that means same as 'strong feeling of being interested in something'.

3) At Pashupatinath (outside which a sign proclaims 'Entrance for the Hindus only') there is an atmosphere of 'febrile confusion'. Priests, hawkers, devotees, tourists, cows, monkeys, pigeons and dogs roam through the grounds.....

- a) What for the devotees involved in a kind of mad race ?
- b) Why is there such a mad rush of people? Who are they?
- c) What does the policeman doubt about the westerners?
- d) Find a word from the passage which means 'announces'.

4) One chases the other, who jumps on to a Shivalinga, then runs screaming around the temples and down to the river, the holy Bagmati, that flows below.....

- a) 'One' chases the 'other'. Who are 'one' and 'other' mentioned here?
- b) Where do most of the activities take place ?
- c) Name two activities which are most polluting.
- d) Find the word from the passage which means the same as 'dead body'.

II. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words:

- 1) What is the belief at Pashupatinath about the end of Kaliyug?
- 2) How does the author describe Kathmandu?
- 3) What observation did the author make about the flute seller in 'Kathmandu'?
- 4) How does the author analyse about the sound of the 'bansuri'?

III. Answer the following question in 100-120 words:

- 1) Describe the busy streets of Kathmandu and the religious nature of people.