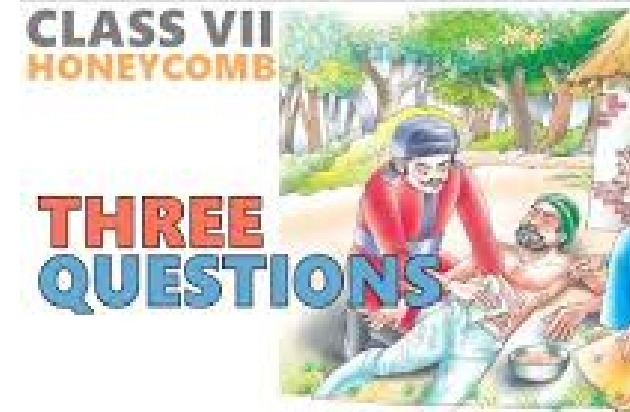


# THREE QUESTIONS

What is the right time to begin things?

Who are the people we must listen to?

What is the most important thing to do?



## NEW WORDS

- **Throughout** all around
- **Certain** particular
- **Council** the advice
- **Seek** find
- **Hermit** recluse
- **Wisdom** intelligence
- **Digging** unearthing
- **Greeted** hailed
- **Affairs** matter
- **Tired** exhausted
- **Stuck** dug

What if he always knew the answer to those three questions, he would always be successful.



What time is the most important time to do something?  
Who are the most necessary people to listen to?  
How do I know the most important thing to be done?

He sets out to find the answer to those three questions by asking many learned men in the kingdom.



Each man gives different opinions to answer the questions. The king decides none of them are correct and goes to see a wise hermit living in the woods.

When he arrives the hermit is busy digging in the ground. The king asks his questions, but the hermit doesn't answer. He offers to dig for a while to give the hermit a break.



After a while the king asks his questions again and the hermit does not answer. The king continues digging for the hermit. Finally at sunset the king asks again and says he will leave if he doesn't get an answer.

The injured man comes up to the house. The king notices he is bleeding.



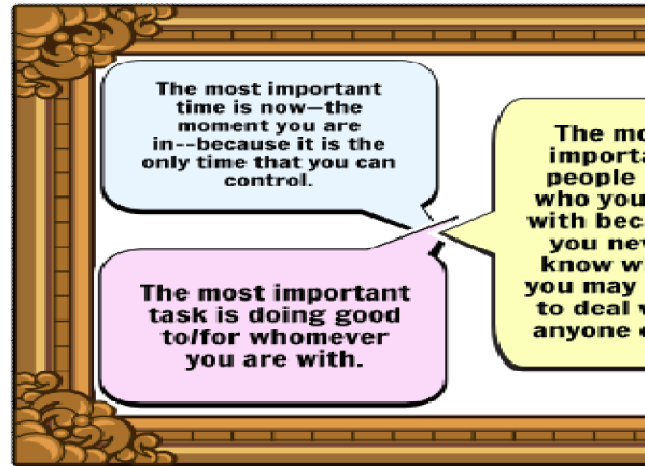
The king helps treat the man's wounds and he and the man in the house to sleep. Since it is late and the king is tired from his work, he lets the man stay as well.

The injured man wakes and admits he was planning on killing the king, but when the king never came back down the road, he came out of his hiding spot and the king's guards attacked him.



If the king hadn't helped treat the man's wounds, he would have died. For saving his life, the man offers to serve the king faithfully. The king gladly accepts.

The king then goes to the hermit and, one day, asks his three questions. The hermit's response is "You have already been answered!"



The most important time is now—the moment you are in—because it is the only time that you can control.

The most important task is doing good to/for whomever you are with.

The most important people are the people who you are with because you never know who you may meet to deal with anyone else.

The King has learned a valuable life lesson and offers answers to his three questions.

# Summary

A certain king gets a thought that he would never fail if he knew three things. These three things were: What was the right time to begin everything? Who were the right people to listen to, and whom to avoid? What was the most important thing to do? He proclaimed that the ones who give the right answers should be rewarded. Many learned men attempted to answer the king's questions, but they all came up with different answers. In reply to the first question, some said that to know the right time for every action, one must know the future in advance, a table of days, months and years, and must live strictly according to it. Only thus, could anything be done at its proper time. Others declared that it was impossible to decide beforehand the right time for every action. The king decided that he needed to ask a wise hermit in a nearby village. The hermit lived in the wood and would only see common people, however, so the king put on simple dress, left his guards behind, and went to see the hermit. When the King approached, the hermit was digging the ground in front of his hut. The king asked his questions, but the hermit went on digging. The king offered to dig for a while. After digging for some time, the king again asked his questions. Before the hermit could answer, a man emerged from the woods. He was bleeding from a terrible stomach wound. So, the king helped him. He washed the wound and bandaged till the blood ceased. The king stayed the night in the hermit's hut. In the morning the wounded man was doing better and was gazing intently at the king. He confessed to the king that he knew who the king was, and that the king had executed his brother and seized his property. He wanted to kill the king, but the king's guards had wounded him. The king forgives him and makes peace with him. The king promised to restore the property to the wounded man. The king asked the hermit again for his answers, and the hermit responded that he had just had his questions answered. The hermit said that he pitied his weakness, and had dug those beds for him. So, the most important time was when the king was digging the beds and he was the most important man. The most important time was when the king was attending to the wounded man and was the important man at that time.

**Link to the lesson :**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NqbWtvxRk  
&t=17s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NqbWtvxRk&t=17s)

## TEXTUAL QUESTIONS

Why did the king want to know answers to three questions?

Ans: The king wanted to know answers to three questions because of the thought came to his mind that he would never fail if he knew answers to these three questions.

**Messengers were sent throughout the kingdom :**

(i) to fetch wise men.

(ii) to find answers to the questions.

(iii) to look for the wise hermit.

(iv) to announce a reward for those who could answer the questions.

Mark your choice:

(iv) to announce a reward for those who could answer the questions.

## Working with the text

No: 14

Complete the following sentences by adding the appropriate parts of the sentences given below :

Many wise men answered the king's questions, .....

Someone suggested that there should be a council of wise men .....

Someone else suggested that the king should have a timetable .....

The king requested the hermit .....

The king washed and dressed the bearded man's wound, .....

but the bleeding would not stop.

He asked the hermit to answer three questions.

But their answers were so varied that the king was not satisfied.

He decided to follow it strictly.

He wanted the hermit to help the king act at the right time.

1. Many wise men answered the king's questions, but their answers were so varied that the king was not satisfied.

Someone suggested that there should be a council of wise men to help the king act at the right time.

Someone else suggested that the king should have a timetable and follow it strictly.

The king requested the hermit to answer three questions.

The king washed and dressed the bearded man's wound, but the bleeding would not stop

## Exercise No. 15

Answer the following questions.

Why was the king advised to go to magicians?

In answer to the first question, in order to decide the right time for doing something important one must have to look into the future. Since only a magician could do that, the king was advised to go to magicians.

In answer to the second question, whose advice did the people say would be most important to the king?

In answers to the second question, some said that the people most necessary to the king were his councillors, others said, the priests. A few others chose the doctors. And some others said that soldiers were the most necessary.

What suggestions were made in answer to the third question?

In answer to the third question, some said science will be most important. Others suggested fighting, and some said religious worship.



Did the wise men win the reward? If not, why not?

No, the wise men did not win the reward. The king got different for all the three questions he asked. He was not satisfied with any of them.

How did the king and the hermit help the wounded man?

The king and the hermit helped the wounded man by providing him the shelter and protected from the army. The king washed and covered the wound of the man with his handkerchief, but the blood would not stop flowing. The king re-dressed the wound until it stopped bleeding. They took him to hut for taking rest and king also gave him fresh water for being relaxed.

Who was the bearded man?

Why did he ask for the king's forgiveness?

(i) Bearded man was the enemy of the king who swore to revenge him for seizing his property and putting his brother to death.

He asked for the king's forgiveness as the king had saved his life. He came there for revenge from the king but instead the king helped him to get better.

7. The king forgave the bearded man. What did he do to show his forgiveness?

Ans: The king showed his forgiveness by sending his servants and his own doctor to look after him, and he promised to give back the wounded man his property.

8. What were the hermit's answers to the three questions? Write each answer separately. Which answer do you like most, and why?

Ans: In answer to king's first question, the hermit said that there is only one important time 'Now'. It is the only time when you have power to act. In answer to king's second question, the hermit said that the most important person is the one with whom we are at the present. In response to king's second question, the hermit answered that the most important thing to do is to do that person good. I like the answer of the first question the most because time has the supreme power. It can take you to height if you do something good and can also make you fall on ground if you won't act in present. One should live and act according to present.

# Work-Sheet

Each of the following sentences has two blanks. Fill in the blanks with appropriate forms of the word given in brackets.

**For example:** He has ..... to help me. Do you think he will remember his .....? (promise)

He has promised to help me. Do you think he will remember his promise?

The ..... said that only fresh evidence would make him change his ..... (judge)

I didn't notice any serious ..... of opinion among the debaters, although they ..... in one another over small points. (differ)

It's a fairly simple question to ..... , but will you accept my ..... as final? (answer)

It isn't ..... that ..... should always be the mother of invention. (necessary)

Hermits are ..... men. How they acquire their ..... no one can tell. (wise)

The committee has ..... to make Jagdish captain of the team. The ..... is likely to ..... everyone (decide)

Asking for ..... is as noble as willingness to ..... (forgive)