

Working with the Text

Q.1. Why did the king want no more talk about the hilsa-fish?

Ans. The king wanted no more talk about about the hilsa-fish because everyone in the court, in the market and all people of the city were talking about the hilsa-fish. So, the king was fed up with these talks.

Q.2. What did the king ask Gopal to do to prove that he was clever?

Ans. The king asked Gopal to buy a huge hilsa fish and bring it to the court without a single talk about the hilsa fish to anybody throughout the way.

Q.3. What three things did Gopal do before he went to buy his hilsa-fish?

Ans. Gopal half shaved his beard, smeared

his face with ash and wore dirty torn<sup>(2)</sup> clothes before he went to buy his hilsa fish.

Q4. How did Gopal get inside the palace to see the king after he had bought the fish?

Ans Gopal bought a huge hilsa fish and reached the court, but the gatekeepers did not allow him to enter into the palace. He then began to dance and sing loudly. When the king inside the palace heard this, he ordered his men to bring him into the court. This way Gopal got inside the palace.

Q5 Explain why - - - - - bought.

Ans Everyone talked about his funny looks and nobody saw the hilsa-fish in his hand because at that moment he was more interesting topic to talk about than the hilsa-fish. He attracted the people's attention. Therefore, nobody talked about the hilsa fish he had bought.