

4.5. Tansen

... Warming up!...

(a) Indian Classical music consists of many Ragas. Find out from an expert or the internet, the names of at least 10 Ragas and the time when they are sung to produce greater effect.

Ans. (Answer are given directly.)

Name of Raga	Effective when
Raga Abhogi	Early night
Raga Adana	(late night)
Raga Ahir Bhairav	(daybreak)
Raga Alhaiya Bilaval	(late morning)
Raga Bageshri	Midnight
Raga Bahar	Midnight; any time (spring season)
Raga Bhairavi	Morning; (any time)
Raga Bhimpalasi	Early afternoon
Raga Bhupal Todi	Morning
Raga Bihag	Late night

(b) Archaic words are those that are no longer used in a language, but sometimes their usage adds a historical or old-times flavour to a piece of writing.

Examples: behold-look

Now find out some archaic words from your mother tongue or another language that you are proficient in and write down at least ten of them, and against each, their modern equivalent and meaning in English.

Ans.

-	Archaic language	-
Archaic Word	Modern Equivalent	Meaning in English
Shrive	Forgive	(of a priest) absolve (a person making a confession)
Slay	Murder	Kill in a violent
Smite	Knock, bash	Defeat or conquer
sooth	Factuality, Authenticity	Truth
Steed	Pony	A horse

wondrous	Amazing, awesome	Wonderful
Yonder	Beyond	over there
Pate	Head, crown	A person's head
Nigh	Next door, proximate	Near
knave	Villain, rogue	A dishonest man

(c) There are many legends about the nine gems' in Akbar's Court. These are popular tales and they may not have a historical basis. Can you name some of the nine gems and the stories associated with them?

Ans. The nine gems of Akbar's court were:

- (1) Abu'l Fazi ibn Mubarak
- (2) Raja Todar Mal
- (3) Abdul Rahim Khan-i-Khana
- (4) Raja Birbal
- (5) Mulla Do-Piyaza
- (6) Faizi
- (7) Fakir Aziao-Din
- (8) Tansen and
- (9) Raja Man Singh I.

There are plenty of Akbar-Birbal stories and those of Akbar and Tansen that are famous.

... English Workshop...

1. Pick out Archaic words form the poem and give their modern equivalent

Ans.

Archaic Words	Modern Equivalents
thy	your
thine	yours
'twere	it were
o'er	over
thee	you

2. Who said the following, to whom, and when?

Ans.

Utterance	Who said it

"Mighty thy teacher must be and divine."	Akbar
"He dwells within acave of Himalay."	Tansen
"As you desire, Huzoor."	Tansen
"O Holy Master, bless us with thy song!"	Akbar and Tansen
"Ah, no, to thee I sing: he sings to God."	Tansen

To whom	When
Tansen	After hearing the wonderful Deepak Raga.
Akbar	When Akbar praised Tansen and asked him about his teacher.
Akbar	When Akbar told Tansen that he wanted to see the teacher and hear him sing.
The teacher	When they met the teacher in the mountains.
Akbar	When Akbar asks him to sing the same musical composition that Ostad had sung, in the same way.

3. Rearrange the following in their proper order as in the poem. Write the serial number against each line:

(a) The Ostad sang the Malkous Raga enchantingly.

Ans. 6

(b) Akbar followed Tansen, dressed miserably.

Ans. 4

(c) I request you to sing such a song that will I experience unmatched joy.

Ans. 9

(d) Ostad was nowhere to be seen.

Ans. 8

(e) O Divine Teacher, please gift us the joy of your song.

Ans. 5

(f) One day, the singer sang Deepak Raga in the court.

Ans. 1

(g) Akbar expressed his wish to meet the Teacher.

Ans. 3

(h) He experienced heavenly delight.

Ans. 7

(i) Tansen sings to please the earthly king but Ostad devotes his songs to God.

Ans. 10

(j) She sang Raga Malhar, which had a cooling effect.

Ans. 2

4. Write the reason in your own words.

(a) Akbar strongly desired to hear Ostad sing.

Ans. Akbar was enraptured with Tansen's singing. He said that Tansen's teacher must be mighty and divine for Tansen to have learnt to sing so magically under his coaching. Akbar then felt that Ostad's singing would be even better, and so he strongly desired to hear Ostad sing.

(b) Akbar had to dress like a slave.

Ans. Akbar badly wanted to meet Tansen's teacher and hear him sing. However, the teacher did not think it worthy to sing to kings, and hence Tansen suggested that it would be better for Akbar to meet him as a poor slave. Therefore, Akbar changed his kingly attire and wore the robes of a poor man.

(c) After the song Ostad had vanished.

Ans. Ostad vanished because he probably did not want to hear any praise or any demands for more songs.

(d) Ostad's song was more elating than Tansen's songs.

Ans. Ostad's song was more elating than Tansen's songs because Tansen sang to Akbar, a human being, while Ostad sang to God.

5. What message does the poet wish to convey through this narrative poem, 'Tansen'?

Ans. The poet wishes to convey that one can reach great heights in one's field if one becomes unworldly and devotes one's talents to someone or something higher than mere human beings.

6. Summarise this poem in your own words in 8 to 10 lines, highlighting only the main points.

Ans. Tansen

Tansen was a singer in Akbar's court. One day, he sang the Deepak Raga so well that Akbar

was enraptured. He wished to meet the teacher at whose feet Tansen had learnt to sing so magically. However, the teacher lived in a remote cave in the Himalayas. He shunned wealth and disdained to sing to earthly kings. Akbar donned the clothes of a slave and went with Tansen to meet him. On their request, Ostad sang the Malkous Raga. It was so enchanting that Akbar felt as if he had been transported to Heaven. Soon after this, Ostad vanished. Akbar asked Tansen whether he could sing the same musical composition that Ostad had sung. Tansen replied that he could not, for he, Tansen, sang to earthly kings, while his Ostad sang to God.