



23

THE RETURN OF THE LION

Have you heard of the brave king Shivaji, who led his Maratha warriors to fight many battles against the Moghul army and defeated them? Well, after one battle Aurangzeb, the Moghul King, captured and imprisoned him. What do you think happened to him? How do you think Shivaji's family felt when that happened? How did this news affect his brave soldiers?



OBJECTIVES

After completing this lesson you will be able to:

- read and enjoy a play;
- assess how war affects ordinary people;
- conclude that a good leader is responsible for his people and state;
- value the sacrifices a mother makes for her child;
- write a diary entry;
- list the characteristics of a good administrator, and
- recognise the adverbs of manner, time and place.



23.1 LET US READ THE TEXT

Characters

- Shivaji : The ruler of the Marathas
Jijabai : Shivaji's mother

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- Mantri : Shivaji's chronicler
Sachiv : The secretary
Ram Das : A poet, Shivaji's teacher and companion
Soyabai : Shivaji's wife and Sambhaji's mother
Pandit Rao : Sambhaji's foster mother

The setting

Officers of Shivaji's court

An attendant in Maratha uniform

(A room in the fort of Rajgarh near Poona. Jijabai, Shivaji's mother, is sitting on a small throne. She is surrounded by officers of the court. Among them are the Mantri, the Sachiv, Pandit Rao, and the poet, Ram Das, who has an open letter on his knee. In a corner, Soyabai, Shivaji's wife and Sambhaji's mother, is sitting quietly; and by her side is Sambhaji's foster-mother who is an older woman. The two of them are talking softly.)

- Jijabai : I can't believe that my son is dead. The letter is a hoax.
- Ram Das : But the letter is from Agra.
- Jijabai : And therefore it is a hoax. When did Aurangzeb ever tell the truth? Did he not make false promises to my son?
- Ram Das : It was Jai Singh who made those promises to our Raja.
- Jijabai : I know that. Can Jai Singh ever make a promise on his own? Surely, the slave spoke for the master.
- Mantri : Spoke in a terribly bad way. Aurangzeb has laid traps for us everywhere. Bijapur is about to strike. Discontent is spreading among our own men.
They may revolt any day. And there is no news about Shivaji. We don't know what to do.
- Sachiv (sadly) : The letter says that Shivaji is dead, but it doesn't say how he died.
- Jijabai (sternly) : Listen! I, your Raja's mother and your Regent, say the letter is a hoax. Don't speak about it any more.
- Soyabai : Does the letter say anything about my dear boy, Sambhaji?
- Jijabai : Keep quiet, girl. You are not the only mother here. I say the lion and his cub will soon return to their kingdom. They can't stay long in the fox's den. Mantriji, listen to me. Raise the pay and increase the rations



Notes

chronicler = record keeper

foster mother = one who looks after a child like a mother

discontent = unhappiness

revolt = rise up against

Regent = a ruler in place of the king



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of the soldiers. Send useful gifts to their wives and sweets and toys to their children. I'll pay for everything out of my private purse. And please tell them that the Raja is at Varanasi and will return before long. Tell them also that all the great astrologers at Varanasi have studied Shivaji's horoscope and they all say that nothing can stop him from becoming the lord of the whole of Maharashtra. Keep the soldiers and the priests contented and happy, and they will believe your words.

(addressing all those present there in a changed voice)

Friends! I have grown old and weak. I haven't many years to live. Help me to live till my brave boy returns to me. Don't say he is dead.

All Men : Our Raja's mother will live. The Queen Regent will live! Our Raja will return to us. We'll pray for his safe return.

Jijabai : Well said, my brave friends. Tomorrow, I'll say my special prayers to our family goddess, Bhawani. She gave him to me, and I'm sure she'll bring him back to me. (turning to Soyabai).

Soyabai, my child, don't worry. Your son, as well as mine, is going to return to us.

SECTION II

(footsteps and a slight noise outside)

Sachiv : What's that?

Ram Das : Perhaps someone wants to see us. (An attendant, who is a tall Maratha in uniform, enters and bows three times to Jijabai).

Attendant : Rani Saheba, there are three holy men at the gate outside. They want to see you.

Jijabai : Where do they come from?

Attendant : I think they are from the north. They say they are bairagi sadhus.

Jijabai : What can their business be?

Attendant : Perhaps they have come to beg from you. They must have heard of your charity. They are poor men in rags. Their heads are shaven and their arms and faces are painted grey with ashes.

Jijabai : They are holy men, and they have come from a far-off place. I cannot say no to them. I need their blessings. Let them come in.

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(The attendant bows three times again and goes out. Soyabai and Sambhaji's foster mother move up nearer to the throne).

Sachiv : May I leave now, Rani Saheba? My secretary must be waiting for me.

Jijabai : Please stay awhile. These holy men have come from the north. Perhaps they have news for us about the Raja. Ah, my heart beats.

(The attendant enters again with three sadhus who seem to be poor, humble men dressed in rags. Two of them are tall and the third, is a small man, who does not look up).

Ram Das : (rising and joining the palms of his hands). Welcome, holy men.

First Sadhu : God bless you, holy guru!

Second Sadhu : God bless this house!

(The third sadhu joins the palms of his hands in greeting but says nothing. He keeps his eyes fixed to the ground.)

Jijabai : (to the third sadhu) Have you no words to bless us with, holy man? Why don't you say something?

First Sadhu : He has taken a vow of silence, noble lady.

Jijabai : I see. (thinks)

First Sadhu : Stories of your wisdom and your kindness to the poor have reached distant places. We've travelled a long way to see you.

Jijabai : You are welcome to this house and to stay here as long as you wish.

Second Sadhu: At Varanasi we met a Brahman who told us that your son, Shivaji had gone to Agra and that you were ruling for him.

Jijabai : What else did you hear about Shivaji?

Second Sadhu : One day we met a band of horsemen. They said the Raja had been put in prison by Aurangzeb.

Jijabai : The lion won't stay long in that dirty den. What else did you hear? Tell me.

First Sadhu : That's all we heard, noble lady. We wish we knew more, but we don't. We're men of peace and spend most of our time in temples and lonely places.



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Jijabai : True. Holy men have nothing to do with war and fighting. Come, give me your blessings. I need them badly. I'm dying to see my son.

(The first and second sadhus bless her. The third does nothing)

Jijabai : (To the third sadhu) If you don't want to bless me, you may curse me and I'll die cheerfully. I can't live without my son. (He falls at her feet. she passes her hand gently over his face, utters a cry and draws his head to her breast.)

It's my son! It's my son! My son has come back to me! Shivaji has come back! The Lord of Maharashtra has come back! The lion has come back from the fox's den.

All : Long live Shivaji! Long live the Lord of Maharashtra!

Shivaji : (rising) Yes, Shivaji has escaped from the fox's den and the vulture's claws. I've come back to my mother, my friends and my people.

Soysbai : (nervously) Dear husband, have you left my son behind in the hands of the enemy?

Shivaji : No, I haven't. He's quite safe with friends. Don't worry about him. He'll be with you in a few days. (looks around and sees Ram Das.) Sir, your pupil has returned to you. Won't you advise and guide him as you've always done? (turning to others) Friends, come closer. Your Raja has come back safe from the spider's web. Be happy and rejoice. Today we'll give a feast to the poor. Light the torches on the hill-tops and illuminate the palace. Fire the guns and shout that the Raja has returned to his people.

All : We'll do all this; and we'll feast and sing and dance. Long live Shivaji! Long live Jijabai! Long live Maharashtra!

23.2 LET US UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

23.2.1 PART 1

Officers of Shivaji's court is going to return to us.

A King's crown is never without thorns. Being head of any mission, be it an army, a state, a country or a project is always full of challenges, opportunities, ups and downs, friends and adversaries. But a true leader is always committed to his mission. Come what may, the goal keeps good leaders trying their best till the end.

The Return of the Lion

In Part 1 of the play the 'Return of the Lion', the situation is extremely tense. Jeejabai the Regent of Marathas in the absence of Shivaji has received a letter from Agra containing the news that Shivaji was dead. Jeeja bai despite of being a mother receives this news as a responsible Regent and doesn't want it to be disclosed.



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INTEXT QUESTIONS 23.1

1. Tick the most suitable answer:
 - A. Jijabai told her Mantri to
 - a) get the soldiers ready for war by giving them guns
 - b) send sweets to the soldiers
 - c) give the soldiers' wives gifts and keep them happy
 - B. Where was Shivaji?
 - a) He had gone hunting with Sambaji
 - b) He had been taken prisoner by Aurangzeb
 - c) He had gone to Varanasi to consult astrologers
 - C. Jijabai believed that the letter was a hoax because
 - a) she did not trust Aurangzeb
 - b) Jai Singh had said so
 - c) the soldiers were unhappy
 - D. Ram Das was
 - a) Shivaji's minister and leader of the army
 - b) Sambaji's teacher and companion
 - c) a court poet and Shivaji's teacher and companion
2. The Mantri believes that the soldiers will revolt. His anxiety shows the soldiers' feeling of uncertainty and fear about their future. Discuss in 30 words only.
3. Jeejabai orders the raise in salary and ration of the soldiers, send gifts and sweets to their families from her private finances. What these gestures show about Jeejabai as a person and as a Regent.

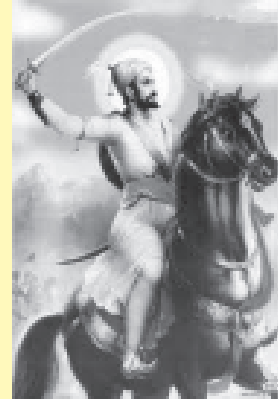


DO YOU KNOW

Shivaji was a great warrior and just ruler who consolidated the Maratha kingdom. He is honoured till date because he protected the vulnerable people. Although he fought many battles against the Moghul emperor Aurangzeb, he practised religious tolerance, protected Muslim women, mosques and tombs.

Today, the 14th Battalion of the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment traces its origin to Shivaji's army of the 18th century. Their battle cry is, "Bol Shri Chattrapati Shivaji Maharaj ki Jai!"

In Mumbai, the railway terminus and airport have been named Chattrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus and Chattrapati Shivaji Maharaj Airport respectively, in his memory.



LET US DO 23.1

Shivaji is considered a hero even today. Identify any man or woman from your neighbourhood or state, whom you admire. He/she may be living today or may have lived some years ago. Make a list of all the reasons why you admire him/her. Now, using this list write a paragraph describing him/her.

23.2.2 PART 2

Footsteps and a slight noise outside Long live Maharashtra.

A mother, even though a ruler or strong personality is always a mother first. Love and care for her children is natural for her. Emotionally she is always attached to them.

In part 2 you'll learn that Jijabai, Shivaji's mother is very keen to see him safe and sound with her. The news of his death has upset her, though, she strongly believes it to be a hoax. She is very anxious about her son and grandson's well being. Yet, she announces gifts for soldiers and their families in order to keep their morale high. She agrees to welcome sadhus because they are from the North. They may have some news about her son. But at the same time she is fully aware of her responsibility towards the Maratha people. She is a totally committed and earnest Regent. Her interaction with Sayabai and Sadhus makes it obvious that she keeps her emotions under control and believes Shivaji will return

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for the sake of the Marathas. Shivaji also, like a seasoned ruler keeps his excitement subdued and makes his appearance in disguise. Read the unit to find out what happens in the end.



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INTEXT QUESTIONS 23.2

- Match the following to complete the sentences:
 - Jijabai agreed to see the three sadhus
 - The sadhus told her that
 - The third sadhu
 - Jijabai asked the sadhus
 - Soyabai was sad because
 - Shivaji was captured by Aurangzeb
 - to bless her
 - she could not see her son Sambaji
 - because they had come from far off places
 - remained silent
- Why did Jijabai agree to meet the sadhus? Give three reasons.
- Jeejabai could recognise her son among the Sadhus. How? What does it shows about Jeejabai as mother. Write in 50 words.



LET US DO 23.2

Have you ever faced a situation where you lost something or somebody you loved? How did you feel when that happened? Write a diary entry describing your feelings.



DO YOU KNOW

When Aurangzeb arrested Shivaji in Raja Jai Singh's house, Shivaji realised that Aurangzeb was planning to kill him.

Shivaji struck upon an idea and said that he wanted to make peace with God by sending fruit and sweetmeats to Brahmins and holy men. Aurangzeb agreed to this. One fine day Shivaji and his son Sambhaji hid themselves in two large baskets in which fruits and sweetmeats were packed everyday and escaped from Aurnagzeb's custody.



23.3 LET US LEARN GRAMMAR

Adverbs

Adverbs are words which add meaning to a verb, an adjective or another adverb. There are different kinds of adverbs.

1. Adverbs of Manner (which show how)
 - eg. He laughed 'loudly'.
 - The Marathas fought 'bravely'.
 - She spoke 'cheerfully'.
2. Adverbs of Place (which show where)
 - eg. Stand 'here'.
 - Your Raja has come 'back'.
 - There are three holy men 'outside'.
3. Adverbs of Time (which show when)
 - eg. He comes here 'daily'.
 - We will give a feast 'today'.
 - They arrived a few minutes 'ago'.

Exercise 1

Choose a suitable word from the brackets and use it in the correct form to complete the sentences.

eg. She laughed _____ (happy/slow)

She laughed happily.

1. Seema looked _____ at her art work. (happy/sad)
2. The man stared _____ at the boy who broke the window. (kind/stern)
3. Salim looked _____ (anxious/rude) out of the window to see whether the police was there for his protection.
4. I like to write _____ (neat/untidy) so that my work is legible.
5. He is popular because he always speaks _____ (polite/rude).

Exercise 2

Adverbial Antonyms (opposites)

Tick the correct antonym (opposite).

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eg. Happily – sadly/seriously

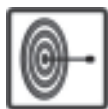
1. timidly - honestly/boldly
2. sternly - shyly/kindly
3. softly - bravely/loudly
4. weakly - strongly/tidily
5. safely - dangerously/prettily
6. cheerfully - sorrowfully/cruelly
7. loosely - tightly/gracefully
8. slowly - bravely/quickly
9. gently - roughly/greatly
10. strictly - meanly/leniently

Exercise 3

In the following sentences

(1) Pick out the adverbs and (2) classify each as an adverb of time, place or manner.

1. Try again.
2. We woke up early.
3. The railway station is far away from his house.
4. She was dressed smartly on her birthday party.
5. The policewoman walked fast to reach the site of accident.
6. The bus is parked in front of the school gate.
7. The animals were received kindly by the zoo authorities.
8. The holy men met the queen immediately after they got permission from the mantri.



WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT

In this lesson you have learnt that you need to be calm in the face of difficulties. When ever there are problems, it is important to set aside fears and worries and try to find solutions.

You also understood the responsibilities of a leader/ruler towards his/her people. Jijabai demonstrated this by looking after the soldiers and their families even though she was very sad and worried about Shivaji.



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**TERMINAL QUESTIONS**

1. As Regent how did Jijabai take care of the Maratha soldiers?
2. Why do you think Shivaji was in disguise when he came to meet his mother?
3. Why did Jijabai refuse to believe that Shivaji was dead?
4. Vijaya was twelve years old. She was travelling with her parents and younger sister. Suddenly the train in which they were travelling met with an accident. Vijaya saw that many people including his family members were hurt and crying for help. How would you feel if you were Vijaya? What would you do?

**ANSWERS****23.2.1 PART 1****INTEXT QUESTIONS 23.1**

1.
 - A c. to give the soldiers' wives gifts and keep them happy
 - B b. he had been taken prisoner by Aurangzeb
 - C a. she did not trust Aurangzeb
 - D c. a court poet and Shivaji's teacher and companion
2. The Mantri felt that the soldiers would revolt because they were discontented and there was also no news of Shivaji, their ruler.
3. a) She asked the Mantri to raise the salary of the soldiers and to look after their families. She told him to keep the priests and soldiers happy.
 - b) Accept all relevant answers. For example: She was a caring ruler and knew her responsibilities as a Regent.

23.2.1 PART 2**INTEXT QUESTIONS 23.2**

1.
 - i d. because they had come from far off places
 - ii a. Shivaji was captured by Aurangzeb

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- iii e. remained silent
 - iv b. to bless her
 - v c. she could not see her son, Sambhaji
2. Jijabai agreed to meet the sadhus because they had come from far and she thought that they may have news about her son. She also wanted their blessings.
 3. Jijabai realises that the third sadhu is her son when he falls at her feet when she asks him to bless her.

23.3 LET US LEARN GRAMMAR

Exercise 1

1. happily
2. sternly
3. anxiously
4. neatly
5. politely

Exercise 2

1. boldly
2. kindly
3. loudly
4. strongly
5. dangerously
6. sorrowfully
7. tightly
8. quickly
9. roughly
10. leniently

Exercise 3

1. again – adverb of time
2. early - adverb of time
3. far away – adverb of place
4. smartly – adverb of manner
5. fast – adverb of manner
6. in front – adverb of place
7. kindly – adverb of manner
8. immediately- adverb of time
9. lengthwise – adverb of manner
10. tomorrow – adverb of time

TERMINAL QUESTIONS

1. As Regent, in Shivaji's absence, Jijabai took care of the Maratha soldiers by raising their pay and increasing their monthly rations with her private finances.
2. Shivaji had escaped from Aurangzeb's captivity and travelled from Agra in disguise to meet his mother so that he could escape recapture and because he wanted to know whether he was safe in his own kingdom.
3. Jijabai did not believe what was written in the letter since she did not trust Aurangzeb. She also believed that her son was a brave and strong man and that Aurangzeb could not kill him easily.
4. Individual responses.

Suggested response:



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If I were Vijay I would be afraid and worried about my family. I would be upset and sad to see people suffering. I would try and help my family and then help those who needed my immediate help. If there were people more seriously injured than members of my family I would help them first .I would also try and help people get out of the train.