

**Vistas Chapter-2 The *Tiger King***

 **Short answer questions**

1. **Why does the Tiger King get this name?**

 Tigers dominate the life and even death of Maharaja. So he is named thus. The chief astrologer foretells that he is born in the hour of the Bull. The Bull and the Tiger are enemies. Therefore, his death will come from the Tiger. Ironically, the Maharaja who has killed 99 tigers, his death is caused by a wooden toy tiger.

2. **What was the great miracle that took place? Why did the people stand stunned?**

 A great miracle took place. The ten-year-old Jilani Jung Jung Bahadur spoke clearly and firmly. Everyone was surprised. The chief astrologer took off his spectacles and gazed intently at the babe. The infant spoke that “all those who are born will one day have to die”. He asked the chief astrologer to tell him the cause of his death.

3. **How did the ten-day-old baby (**the future Tiger King***)* react to the prediction about his future made by the astrologers?**

 The astrologers predicted that the child would grow up to become a great warrior, hero of heroes and champion of champions. Unfortunately, he was born under the stars, he would one day have to meet his death. The ten-day-old baby astonished everyone with a miracle. He declared that “all those who are born will one day have to die”. In this way, he reacted to the prediction about his future made by the astrologers.

4. **What does the chief astrologer tell to be the cause of Maharaja’s death? OR What explanation was given by the chief astrologer to the query of the little Tiger King?**

 The royal infant wants to know the real cause of his death. The astrologer tells him that he is born in the hour of Bull. The Bull and the Tiger are enemies. Therefore, his death will “come from the Tiger”. He cautions him to beware of the hundredth tiger.

5. **Describe the upbringings of the royal infant. When did he take the reins of the state in his hands? OR What kind of life was enjoyed by the crown prince, Jung Bahadur till he reached the age of twenty?**

 Crown prince Jung Jung Bahadur led a glamorous and grand life. He grew taller and stronger day by day. The boy drank the milk of an English cow. He was brought up by an English governess. He was tutored in English by Englishman. He saw nothing but English films. When he became twenty years old, the rule of the state came into his hands.

6. **What led the Maharaja to start out on a tiger hunt? OR What did the Maharaja decide to do when he remembered the astrologer’s prediction?**

 The chief astrologer had predicted that Maharaja’s death would come from a tiger. He was born in the hour of the Bull and the Bull and the Tiger are enemies. Hence, the death would come from the tiger. The Maharaja vowed that he would attend to all other matters only after killing the required hundred tigers. So the Maharaja started out on a tiger hunt.

7. **How did the Maharaja feel when he killed his first tiger? What did the State Astrologer say on that occasion?**

 The Maharaja was thrilled ‘beyond measure’ when he killed his first tiger. He sent for the State astrologer. He showed him the dead beast and demanded his reaction. The astrologer replied that he might kill ninety-nine tigers in exactly the same manner. But he must be very careful with the hundredth tiger.

8. **Why did the Maharaja ban tiger hunting? Why was it celebration time for tigers in Pratibandapuram?**

 The state banned tiger hunting by anyone except the Maharaja. If anyone even dared to throw a stone at a tiger, all his wealth and property would be confiscated. The Maharaja didn’t want anyone to reduce the population of tigers. It was the celebration time for tigers in the state. Tiger hunting was banned for all except the Maharaja.

9. **Why did the Tiger King decide to get married?**

 The Maharaja was able to kill seventy tigers within ten years. But his mission of killing hundred tigers suddenly came to a standstill. Tigers became extinct in the forests of Pratibandapuram. He hit upon a plan. He told his dewan that he wanted to get married. Thirty tigers still remained to be shot deaf. He asked the dewan to draw up statistics of tiger populations in the different native states. He would marry in the royal family of a state with the largest tiger population.

10. **How was at one time the Maharaja in danger of losing his throne?**

 At one time the Maharaja was in danger of losing his throne. A high ranking British officer visited Pratibandapuram. He was fond of hunting tigers and being photographed with them. He was refused permission to hunt tigers. The Maharaja had prevented such a high ranking officer from fulfilling his desire. The Maharaja stood in danger of losing his kingdom itself.

11. **What did the British officer’s secretary tell the Maharaja? Why did the Maharaja refuse permission?**

 The British officer’s secretary sent word to the Maharaja through the Dewan. The high ranking British officer himself didn’t have to kill the tiger. The Maharaja could do the actual killing. The officer was interested only in getting himself photographed holding the gun before the dead body of the tiger. The Maharaja refused permission as it could invite other British officers for the tiger hunt.

12. **How did the Maharaja managed to retain his kingdom?**

 The Maharaja had to please and bribe the high-ranking British officer. Samples of expensive diamond rings of different designs were brought form a famous jeweler in Calcutta. The Maharaja sent all the fifty rings to the British officer’s good lady. The lady accepted the whole lot. The Maharaja lost three lakh rupees but managed to retain his kingdom.

13*.* ***Even though the Maharaja lost Rs 3 lakh, he was still happy****.* **Why?**

 The Maharaja had antagonised a British officer by refusing him the permission to hunt tigers in his state. He stood in danger of losing his kingdom itself. But he could buy his favour by presenting expensive diamond rings to the officer’s wife. The bribe meant a net loss of 3 lakh rupees to the Maharaja. The Maharaja didn’t bother about the sum. He was happy as he had managed to retain his kingdom.

14. **What was the unforeseen hurdle that brought the Maharaja’s tiger hunts to a halt?**

 The Maharaja’s tiger-hunts continued to be highly successful. Within ten years he was able to kill seventy tigers. Then an unforeseen hurdle brought his mission to a halt. The tiger population became extinct in the forests of Pratibandapuram. No one knew if they practiced birth control or committed hara-kiri.

15. **How did the Maharaja solve the problem of killing the remaining thirty tigers? What was his marriage plan?**

 The Maharaja asked his Dewan to draw up figures of tiger populations in the different native states. He could marry in a royal family with a large tiger population. The Dewan found out the right girl. The Maharaja killed five or six each time he visited his father-in-law. Ultimately, he was able to kill 99 tigers in all.

16. **What was happy news which dispelled the Maharaja’s gloom?**

 Sheep began to disappear frequently from a hillside village. It was not the work of Khader Mian Saheb and Viraswami Naicker who were famous for killing sheep. The Maharaja announced a three-year exemption from all taxes for that village. The Maharaja refused to leave the forest until the tiger was found.

17. **Why did the Dewan warn the Maharaja not to double the land tax forthwith? What was the reaction of the Maharaja?**

 The hundredth tiger was not located. The angry Maharaja called the Dewan and ordered him to double the land tax forthwith. The Dewan warned that the people would rise in revolt. Then their state too would fall a prey to the Indian National Congress. The Maharaja didn’t relent. He told the Dewan that in case he might resign from his post.

18. **How did the Tiger King celebrate the victory over the killing of 100th tiger?**

 The Tiger King thought that he had killed the hundredth tiger. He was elated. He didn’t know that his bullet had missed the mark. The hundredth tiger survived. He ordered the tiger to be brought to the capital in grand procession. The dead tiger was taken in a procession through the town. It was buried and a tomb was erected over it.

19. **What were the arrangements made by Dewan for the Maharaja’s hundredth tiger hunt?**

 The Dewan was convinced that if the Maharaja didn’t find the hundredth tiger soon, the results could be quite dangerous. He made an arrangement. A tiger was brought from People’s Park in Madras. It was kept hidden in his house. He and his aged wife dragged the tiger to a car. It was pushed down to the ground. The same old tiger wandered into the Maharaja’s presence, ready to be hunted down without any effort.

 20. **What was the Dewan’s tiger like? How did he take it into the forest?**

 Dewan’s tiger was an old tiger. It was not ferocious and agile. It was passive and exhausted. It was pushed down to the ground. He wandered into the Maharaja’s presence and stood as if in humble supplication. The tiger was kept hidden in Dewan’s house. At midnight when the town slept in peace, the dewan and his wife dragged the tiger into the car and drove straight to the forest.

21. **Why was the Maharaja so anxious to kill the hundredth tiger?**

 The chief astrologer had already predicted that the Maharaja was born in the hour of the Bull and that his death would be caused by a tiger. The chief astrologer had specially warned the Maharaja to save himself from the wrath of the hundredth tiger. Having killed ninety-nine tigers, the Maharaja was especially anxious to kill the hundredth tiger. By killing the hundredth tiger he would totally eliminate all the chances of his being killed by a tiger.

22. **Why didn’t the hunters tell the Maharaja that the tiger was not dead?**

 The Maharaja thought that he killed the hundredth tiger. He didn’t know that his bullet had missed the mark. The beast was killed not by him but by one of the hunters. However, they kept it a secret. They feared losing their jobs if Maharaja knew the truth.

23. **Did the Tiger King shoot the hundredth tiger? Give reasons for your answer.**

 The Tiger King did take careful aim at the hundredth tiger. The tiger fell in a crumple heap. But it was not the king but the hunters who actually shot the tiger dead. The king’s bullet missed its mark. So, the Tiger King couldn’t fulfil the vow of killing hundred tigers himself.

24. **How did the hundredth tiger take its revenge upon the Tiger King?**

 The Tiger King decided that a wooden toy-tiger was a perfect gift for his son’s birthday. So, he bought a wooden toy-tiger for him. One day he was playing with that wooden tiger. One of the silvers pierced the king’s right hand. Infection spread all over the arm. Three surgeons performed an operation but couldn’t save the king. Thus, the hundredth tiger took its revenge upon the king.

 Long Answer Type Questions

25. **Draw a character-sketch of the Tiger King in your own words**.

 The Maharaja of Pratibandapuram, Sir Jilani Jung Jung Bahadur, had many titles and sub-names. But he was popular as the Tiger King. The chief astrologer predicted that his death would come from a tiger.

 Crown prince Jung Jung Bahadur was brought up by an English governess. He was tutored in English by an Englishman. When he grew up to twenty, he took the reign in his hands.

 The Maharaja continued his campaign of tiger-hunting with rare single-mindedness. Within a span of ten years he killed 70 tigers.it was his master strategy to marry a girl of a state which had a large tiger population. So he was able to kill 99 tigers in all.

 The Tiger King could pay any price to maintain his kingdom. He had antagonised a high-ranking British officer by refusing to give him permission to shoot tigers in his state. He had to give him a bribe worth three lakh rupees in the form of diamond rings to retain his kingdom.

 The Maharaja knew how to take work from his minions. He could be hot-headed. He doubled the tax on the people. It is ironical that the Maharaja met with his death by a wooden tiger and the hundredth tiger took revenge upon him.

26. **Why was the Maharaja of Pratibandapuram called the Tiger King? How did his campaign of tiger hunting continue? How was he avenged by the hundredth tiger?**

 The Maharaja of Pratibandapuram came to be known as the Tiger King. Tigers dominated his life since birth. The Maharaja was forced to start the campaign of killing a hundred tigers in self-defense. The chief astrologer had predicted that his death would be caused by a tiger. Particularly, he was advised to beware of the hundredth tiger. The Maharaja could kill seventy tigers in ten years. Then the tiger population in the forests of Pratibandapuram became extinct. The Maharaja adopted a new strategy. He married a girl from a state with a large tiger population. Very soon his tally reached 99, just one short of the required hundred.

 Ironically, the Tiger King’s death came from the hundredth tiger. It was a toy-tiger made of wood. He had presented a wooden tiger to his son on his third birthday. One of its silvers pierced the Maharaja’s right-hand. Infection spread all over the arm. Three surgeons operated on him but couldn’t save him from dying. At last astrologer’s prediction came true. The hundredth tiger took its revenge upon the king.

27. **Why did the Maharaja’s anxiety reach a fever pitch? What steps were taken to hunt the hundredth tiger? Could the King disprove the astrologers? OR How was the hundredth tiger found and hunted down?**

 The Maharaja’s anxiety reached a fever pitch. One more tiger was to be killed to achieve his tally of a hundred. Soon came the happy news that dispelled his gloom. There was a possibility of a tiger living in a hillside village. The Maharaja announced a three-year exemption from all taxes for that village. He set out at once. The tiger was not found but the Maharaja refused to leave the forest.

 The Dewan himself was in danger of losing his job. He got a tiger arranged from the People’s Park in Madras. The tiger was left in the forest where the Maharaja was hunting. Then came the anti-climax. The Maharaja’s bullet missed its mark.

 Unfortunately, the king didn’t know that the hundredth tiger was not killed by him. So the hundredth tiger caused his death. Ironically, the hundredth tiger caused his death was not a ferocious beast. The king died of the deadly infection. A wooden toy-tiger was the cause of his death.

 28. ***Giving a bribe is an evil practice.* How did the Tiger King bribe the British officer to save his kingdom? How do you view this act of his?**

 No doubt, giving a bribe is an evil practice. It is unethical as well. But politics and statecraft are not totally governed by ethics and principles. They are guided and governed by mutual self-interests. The Tiger King was faced with difficult situation. Actually, he had come in the danger of losing his throne and kingdom. Once a high-ranking British officer visited Pratibandapuram. He was fond of hunting tigers. The Maharaja had already imposed a ban on tiger-hunting. He was firm in his resolve. He was ready to organise any other hunt. The officer was even ready to let the Maharaja do the actual killing. He could be satisfied only by having photographed near a dead tiger. The Maharaja didn’t relent. If he allowed it, it could tempt other British officers to come to Pratibandapuram.

 After a long deliberation with his Dewan, the Maharaja resorted to diplomacy and bribery. After all, he couldn’t afford to displease the high-ranking British official. Samples of expensive diamond rings were ordered. A famous British company of jewelers in Calcutta sent fifty rings. The Maharaja sent all the rings to the officer’s good lady. The greedy lady kept all the rings with her. She sent thanks to the Maharaja for gifts.

 This act of Maharaja doesn’t bring him any glory or honour. Bribery is an evil practice. But the Maharaja can be excused. He was rather in difficult situation. He couldn’t allow the hunting of tigers. He couldn’t go against his own proclamation. On the other hand, he couldn’t displease such a high-ranking British official. The act of bribing may be morally wrong but it was a political necessity.

29. **How did the Tiger King come in the danger of losing his throne and how did he save his kingdom?**

 **OR**

**When did the Tiger King stand in danger of losing his kingdom? How was he able to avert the danger?**

 The state banned tiger hunting by anyone except the king. Once a high-ranking British officer visited Pratibandapuram. He was fond of hunting tigers. He liked to be photographed with the tigers he had shot. The Maharaja was firm in his resolve. He refused permission. He was ready to organise any other hunt but the tiger hunt was impossible.

 The British officer’s secretary sent word through the Dewan. The Maharaja could do the actual killing. The officer only wanted to be photographed near the dead tiger. The Maharaja didn’t relent. If he granted the permission, it would invite other British officers to Pratibandapuram for tiger hunts. The Maharaja stood in danger of losing his kingdom itself. He held deliberations over the issue with the Dewan. Samples of expensive diamond rings were ordered. A famous British company of jewelers in Calcutta sent fifty rings. The Maharaja sent the whole lot to the British officer’s good lady. The lady kept all the rings with her. She sent her thanks to the Maharaja for the gifts. The Maharaja was happy. Though he had lost three lakhs of rupees, he had managed to retain his kingdom.

30. ***Even today so many among us believe in superstitions. An astrologer predicted about “The Tiger King” that he would be killed by a tiger. He ‘killed’ one hundred tigers yet was himself ‘killed’ by a tiger.*** **How did the superstitious belief prevail?**

 In every age people have never been free from superstitions. Even today so many among us believe in superstitions. The chief astrologer had predicted that the Tiger King would be killed by a tiger. The king himself believed in the superstitious prediction. He made all efforts to avoid the inevitable by killing hundred tigers. Ironically, the superstitious belief prevailed. The king’s death did come from a tiger, though it was a toy-tiger.

 As soon as the Tiger King was born, the astrologers made a forecast. The child would grow up to become the warrior of warriors and hero of heroes. The child born under that star would have to meet with his death. At that very moment a great miracle took place. It was the infant born just ten days ago who spoke like a grown-up man. He was not impressed by what the astrologers had said about him. “All those who are born will one day have to die.” The child wanted to know ‘the manner of that death’. He announced that the prince was born in the hour of the Bull. The Bull and the Tiger are enemies. His death would come ‘from the Tiger’.

 The Maharaja was thrilled beyond measure when he killed the first tiger. He showed the dead beast to the State astrologer. The astrologer urged the king to be careful with the hundredth tiger. Ironically, the prediction turned out to be true. The hundredth tiger was killed but not by the king. A wooden tiger became the cause of his death. And so the hundredth tiger took its revenge upon the king.