



ENGLISH

SERMONS AT BENARAS

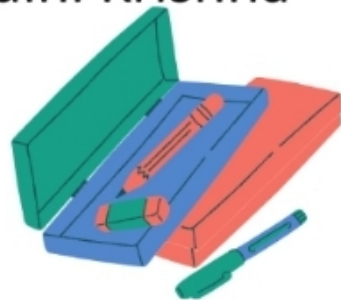
MADAM RIDES THE BUS

Doubts & Central theme

Nandini Krishna



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SERMONS AT BENARAS: CENTRAL THEME

Siddhartha Gautam after attaining enlightenment gives his sermon in Benaras. Kisa Gautami who lost her son was drowned in grief. She wanted him back to life. Shakyamuni keeps a condition that if she fetches a handful of mustard seeds from families where no death has taken place. Kisa Gautami in a hope to get her son, realizes how selfish she had been. She had unknowingly and unintentionally reminded people of their loss.

Shakyamuni then explains, how death is an integral part of life and whether one is foolish or wise, rich or poor will face this grief. We can only feel free from this grief, if we understand this and throw the arrow of sadness and lamentation out of our lives and live at peace.

MADAM RIDES THE BUS: CENTRAL THEME

A determined girl, Valli who is eight years old decides to take a bus ride from her village to the main city. She thriftily saves her money and takes the forty five minute journey back and forth from the village. She has always liked watching the streets from her main door and this filled her with unusual experiences. This bus journey does the same for her. Although she is just eight years old, she is determined, courageous, wise, fearless and independent.

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS:

1. How did Kisa Gautami remind everyone of their grief?
2. How was Kisa Gautami selfish in her grief?
3. Describe Valli's character? Also describe specific instances which helped you to understand her character?
4. Have you planned something entirely on your own, without taking any help from adults? What did you plan and how? Were you successful in it?

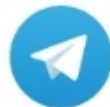
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