

## Chapter-8 Jalebis

- *Comprehension check:-*

1. *Why didn't he pay the school fees on the day he brought money to school?*  
*He didn't paid the school fees because when he got there he found that the teacher who collected the fees, Master Ghulam Mohammad, was on leave and so the fees would be collected next day.*
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2.

- a. *What were the coins 'saying' to him?*  
*The coins were asking him to buy the jalebis.*
  - b. *Do you think they were misguiding him.*  
*Yes, they were misguiding him. Even though the money was for the payment of fees, they urged him to spend all on jalebis.*
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3. *Why didn't he take the coins advice? Give two or three reasons.*

*He didn't take the coins advice because:-*

- i. *He was an honest boy.*
  - ii. *He was studious and had a image to protect in the school.*
  - iii. *He did not want to get caught doing wrong things.*
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*What did the oldest coin tell him?*

*The oldest coin said that they were trying to tell you something for your own good and you try to strangle us instead. And then if you do end up spending us for today, won't you get the scholarship money tomorrow, Sweets with the fees money, fees with the scholarship money.*

a. *Did he follow his advice? If not, why not?*

*No, he did not follow his advice. Even though his mouth watered, he remembered the fact that he was among the most promising student. In the fourth standard exams, he had been won a scholarship of four rupees a month. Also he came from a particularly well-to-do family, enjoyed considerable prestige he had never once been beaten so far. On the contrary, teacher had got him to beat the other boys. He thought for a child of such status, standing there in the middle of the bazaar eating jalebis. Giving these reason he returned home.*

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*He reached home with the coins in his pocket. What happened then?*

*When he reached home, the coins began to speak again. when he went inside to have lunch, they began to shriek. He was so thoroughly fed up that he rushed out of the house barefoot and ran towards the market. Although he was terrified, he quickly asked for a whole rupee worth of jalebi. The halwai opened up a whole newspaper and heaped a pile of jalebi on it.*

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*Why didn't he eat all the jalebis he had bought?*

*He did not eat all the jalebis he had bought because he had eaten so many of them that if anybody pressed his stomach a little, jalebis would have popped out of his ears and nostrils.*

a. *What did he do with remaining jalebis?*

*He distributed the remaining jalebis to the children who had assemble in the gali where he was eating the jalebis.*

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*"The fear was killing me". What was the fear?*

*The fear was of getting caught and his parents finding out that he had eaten so many jalebis. He burped with every breath with every burp there was the danger of bringing out a jalebi or two. This fear was killing him.*

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*"Childrens stomach are like digestion machines". What do you understand by that? Do you agree?*

*This means that children have very good digestive ability. They can digest more than usual diet. Yes, I agree.*

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*How did he plan to pay the fees the next day?*

*He planned to pay the fees with the previous months scholarship that he would get the next day.*

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*When it is time to pay the fees, what does he do? How is he disobeying the elders by doing so?*

*When it was time to pay the fees, he tucked his bag under his arm and left the school. He kept walking, praying for some miracle to happen which would save him that our time. He reached the Kambelpur railway station. The elders had warned him to never cross the railway tracks. They had also warned him that one must never eat sweets with one's fees money.*

*However, he had disobeyed them by doing so.*

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*What was the consequences of buying jalebis with the fees money?*

*The consequences of buying jalebis with the fees money was that for the first time in his life he was absent from his school.*

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*His prayer to god is like a lawyer's defence of a bad case. Does he agree his case well? What are points he makes?*

*He did not argue well. He was mostly trying to impress God and make promises. He said that he had memorized the entire namaaz. He even knew the last ten suras of the Quran by heart. He said that he was devoted servant of God and needed the fees money. He also said that he had not eaten all the jalebis. He shared them with other children. He promised that he will never do this mistake again. He said that there was no shortage of anything in God's treasury. He finally said that he was the nephew of a big officer and therefore, God should give him the money as he had asked for only four rupees.*

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*He offers to play a game with Allah Miyan. What is the game?*

*The game was that he would go from where he was standing to the signal. Then, God would secretly place four rupees under a big rock. Meanwhile, he would touch the signal and come back. Then, when he would lift the rock and find the four rupees underneath.*

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*Did he get four rupees by playing the game? What did he got to see under the rock?*

*No, he did not got four rupees by playing the game. When he lifted the rock, he saw a big hairy worm curling, twisting and wriggling towards him.*

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*If God had Granted his wish that day, What harm would it have caused him in later life?*

*If God had granted his wish that day, he would never have learnt from his mistake. He would have continued doing such wrong deeds, believing that God would serve him after his persuasion.*