

SILK ROAD

Q1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follows:

Further on, where the plains became more stony than grassy, a great herd of wild ass came into view. Tsetan told us we were approaching them long before they appeared. “*Kyang*,” he said, pointing towards a far-off pall of dust. When we drew near, I could see the herd galloping en masse, wheeling and turning in tight formation as if they were practising manoeuvres on some predetermined course. Plumes of dust billowed into the crisp, clean air.

i. What is the meaning of 'Kyang in the above passage:

- a. Himalayan beer b. Himalayan ass
c. Himalayan bird d. Himalayan leopard

ii. Who is Tsetan in the above passage?

- a. Writer
b. Driver
c. A pilgrim
d. all of these

iii. With what purpose did the author was in Tibet?

- [illegible]

iv. What is the meaning of 'en-masse' in the above passage?

- a. A group of people of animal b. A cairn of stones
c. A bed of flowers d. stable of animals

Q2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follows:

When the time came for me to tell him what brought me to Darchen, his eyes lit up. “We could be a team,” he said excitedly. “Two academics who have escaped from the library.” Perhaps my positive-thinking strategy was working after all.

- i. Who does the narrator refers to when he says ‘we could be a team’?
 - a. Norbu
 - b. Tsetan
 - c. Danial
 - d. Lhamo
- ii. Where was the narrator heading for and with what purpose?
 - a. Towards Beijin to meet one of his friend
 - b. Towards mount Kanchenjunga
 - c. Towards Ravu to see a doctor
 - d. Towards Darchen to write some academic papers.
- iii. Why did the eyes of the listener lit up?
 - a. He was very close to his destination
 - b. He was feeling lonely
 - c. He found a companion for pilgrimage
 - d. None of these
- iv. Why did the narrator said, ‘Perhaps my positive-thinking strategy was working after all.’
 - a. Because he found someone to accompany him for Kora
 - b. Because he was feeling good now after being suffered with chest congestion
 - c. both ‘a’ and ‘b’
 - d. None of these

Q3. What was the purpose of the author to visit Kailash?

Answer. The author, Nick Middleton, was a professor in Oxford University, London. He was also an adventure tourist and liked to visit difficult terrains. This time he planned to visit Mount Kailash and Mansarovar lake in Tibet. He wanted to do a religious ceremony called 'Kora' in which he was to circumambulate mount Kailash that is revered as the most sacred and holy place in Buddhism and Hinduism.

Q4. What is 'Kora'?

Answer. In Tibetan language 'Kora' means 'to walk in circle'. Thus, Kora is a religious ceremony in pilgrims circumambulate/walk around the Mount Kailash.

Q5. Who was Lhamo and what advice did she give to the author?

Answer. Lhamo is a Tibetan girl who met who wanted to give her a farewell present. One evening the author told her through Daniel that she he was heading towards Mount Kailash to do 'Kora'. She advised him that he must take some warmer clothes. With she gave him a long-sleeved sheepskin coat.

Q6. Why were the Tibetan mastiffs popular as china's imperial court?

Answer. The Tibetan Mastiff dogs are very popular in china's imperial court as hunting dogs. These dogs are extraordinarily massive in size with big head and massive jaws. They are furious and fearless. They were popular in China's imperial courts as hunting dogs. They are watchdogs for the villagers and tribes in remote areas. They bark furiously when they see any stranger in their territory. They can chase and drive away the big animals and enemies.

Q7. Why was the author's experience at Hor was a stark contrast to earlier account of the place?

Answer. The author had read about Hor in a travelogue by Ekai Kawaguchi and Swiss Sven Hedin. It was mentioned as a very beautiful tranquil/placid place with good vegetation. But when the author visited Hor, he observed a big contrast from what he had read. It was a miserable place with no vegetation. He saw pass of in clean air and rocks scattered all around. There were heap of refuse accumulated in years.

Q8. What difficulties did Tsetan faced while crossing the high mountain passes to Changtang?

Answer. Tsetan decided to take short to get to Changtang. The route involved many fairly high mountain passes. The crossed many rolling hills and a vast plain. When they were passing through a rock wilderness, they were chased by a ferocious Mastiff dog. The turns now became sharper. The track was covered with dirt and small rocks that made the ride bumpier. The real challenge came when they came across the patch of trail covered with thick ice. There was no way round the patch as the slope was too steep to scale. Tsetan had to check how strong the snow was. Then he flung dust over the surface and somehow managed to cross over.

Q9. Why was the author disappointed with Darchen?

Answer. Darchen is a small village located at 4575 meters above the sea level. The author arrived here much before the pilgrimage season. So, he felt very alone and aloof. It was as gloomy place with heap of rubbish and rubble all around. There were very few general stores. Moreover, he developed health issues like cold and chest congestion. He was also facing difficulty in breathing due to high altitude. He could not sleep throughout the night and had to visit a local hospital the next day.

Q10. What was the author's physical condition at Darchen? What treatment did he take for it?

Answer. The author, Nick Middleton, was at Darchen that is located at 4575 meter above the sea level. Here he developed some health issues. He was suffered with cold and chest congestion. One of his nostrils was completely blocked that did not allow him to breath. He was restless and could not sleep throughout the night. He was taken to local hospital where he was given Tibetan traditional treatment.

Q11. What was special about the local Tibetan doctor and the medicine given to the author?

Answer. The author was suffered with chest congestion and was taken to local Tibetan hospital. Here, he was amazed to see the traditional Tibetan doctor wearing a thick pullover and a wooly hat. He did not have any of the paraphernalia used by modern doctors. He simply felt his veins in the wrist and asked him a few questions about his illness. He gave him fifteen paper screws with small pellets and a powder that were to be taken with hot water.

Q12. What difficulties did the author encounter while crossing the mountain passes that led to the Silk Road?

Answer. The author, Nick Middleton, faced many difficulties during his journey to Mount Kailash. Tsetan, the driver, selected a longer route through fairly high mountain passes. They crossed many rolling mountains, valleys, rivers and a vast plain. The track was full of dirt and rocks that made the ride bumpier. The turns were very sharp and dangerous. They were driving at an altitude of about 5,000 meters above the sea level. The weather was hostile with chilly air and dust clouds. The real challenge came when they came across a track covered with thick layer of ice. They could not drive round the patch as it was too steep to scale. Tsetan flung a dust over the snow and somehow managed to cross over. Somehow, they overcame all these obstacles and reached Darchen which was a small town at 1575 meter above the sea level. Here author was suffered with cold, chest congestion and a blocked nostril. The next day he had to see a doctor at local Tibetan hospital. The next day, he realized that he had reached there much before the pilgrimage season. But he was lucky to meet Norbu who was an academican in a Chinese university. Both teamed up for the Kora.

Q13. How was the author's experience at Hor in stark contrast to the earlier accounts of the people?

or

How was the reaction of Ekai Kawaguchi and Sven Hedin when they first visited Hor and Kailash Mansarovar.

Answer. Author reached Hor, small town, situated at main East-West highway near the shore of lake Mansarovar. Here he observes a stark contrast between his experience of the place and the earlier accounts that he had read. Ekai Kawaguchi was Japanese monk who visited Hor and Mount Kailash in 1900. He was so moved to feel the sanctity of the place that he burst into tears. Sven Hedin was a Swedish explorer who spend many days in Himalayan region. He was also moved to see the beauty and tranquility of the place that he could no control his emotions. But the author found that Hor was grim and miserable place with no vegetation. It was full of dust and rocks. He could see the heap of rubbish and refuse accumulated and left behind tourists. The author was disturbed to see the transformation that had taken place in the region.