

SUBJECT- ENGLISH LITERATURE

CLASS -VIII

DATE:2020/04/18

Good morning Children.

Welcome to English Literature class.

The Invention of Shoes

(Translated by Sukhendu Ray and Sukanta Choudhuri)

The Invention of Shoes is a wonderful poem composed by Rabindranath Tagore and translated by Sukhendu Ray and Sukanty Chaudhuri. The poem was composed at a time when people didn't know anything about shoes. The poem smartly discusses the recklessness of the people in power and also the inability of most people to use their common sense to solve the problem. One day King Hobu asked Minister Gobu to find a solution to the problem of his feet getting dirty everytime he stepped on the ground. The minister and others in the court took so much salary, but never cared about the king's troubles. The King ordered Minister Gobu to find some remedy for the present nuisance or else he wouldn't spare any one of them. Minister Gobu sweated a lot out of fear ,the scholars grew pale and the courtiers spent sleepless nights. The family members started weeping and stopped cooking in the Minister's home. Finally Minister Gobu with tears in his eyes fell at King's feet and asked how they would get the dust of the King's holy feet if they were freed from dust. Though the King was pleased to hear this,he wanted his ministers to get rid of the dust from his feet.He once again reminded Minister Gobu of getting a fat salary. He also questioned the reason for appointing Scientists with long degrees. The king threatened all to be prepared for the worst if they couldn't tackle the problem.

Assignment:

Answer the following questions:

1. What did King Hobu order Minister Gobu?
2. Why are the King's words said to be 'sinister'?
- 3.What was the impact of the King's words on the courtiers ?
4. 'That's a question indeed'- What does the King refer to as the 'question'?

