

INSTRUCTIONS-


Parents are expected to ensure that the child reads the lesson ,understands it and then follows the explanatory exercises –

2
chapter **THE NEEDLE TO HEAVEN**

Listen carefully as the story is read out to you by your teacher.

Guru Nanak was the first Sikh Guru or teacher and the founder of the Sikh faith. 'Sikh' means 'someone who learns'. This story teaches us not to be too attached to wealth. Instead be a good human being, and do *sewa* 'service' to others. This is one way of being close to God.

Duni Chand was the richest man in the city of Lahore. He lived in a magnificent palace surrounded by all the luxuries of life. One day he came to know that Guru Nanak was **preaching** in the city. He rushed out to the place where Guru Nanak was staying and invited him to his palace to a special dinner in his honour. Guru Nanak politely refused but since Duni Chand would not take no for an answer, Guru Nanak was forced to accept the invitation. Duni Chand was very pleased. "It will be the best evening of your life," he bragged. Guru Nanak was given a grand welcome at the feast, attended by all the rich and famous people of the city. The food was delicious, prepared with much care, and everyone had a wonderful evening. At the dinner, Duni Chand turned to Guru Nanak.



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"I happen to be the wealthiest man in this city. If there is anything I can do for you, Holy Sir, please don't hesitate to ask," he boasted.

Guru Nanak was quiet. He looked around the huge rooms, the expensive carpets and curtains, the paintings on the walls, the silver urns filled with flowers, the ladies of the house dressed in the finest of silks and laden with gold jewellery. He then felt his pocket and took out a small box, inside which was a fine, silver needle.

"Well, Duni Chand, there is, in fact, something you can do for me," Guru Nanak replied, handing him the needle. "I want you to keep this fine needle safely and return it to me when, eventually we meet in heaven."

"Is that all? Most certainly, Holy Sir, most certainly,"

gushed the rich man, filled with **self-importance**. He got up, made a big show of safely putting the needle into his coat pocket, and then went to **see off** Guru Nanak to his place.



When he returned home, he began to boast to his wife about the special task with which the holy man had **entrusted** him.

To his utter astonishment, his wife started giggling, "You silly man! How are you going to do what Guru Nanak has asked for?"

Quite confused, Duni Chand rushed back to the Guru.

"O, Holy Sir, please guide me and tell me how I can take this needle with me when I die."

Guru Nanak smiled gently and placing his hand kindly on Duni Chand's shoulder, replied, "Duni Chand, if you can't carry a tiny needle with you, how will you take all your wealth and property with you to heaven?"

Duni Chand was quiet as he began to realize the truth of the holy Guru's wise words. It was true, all his wealth was worth nothing. When he died, he would not be able to take it with him to heaven.

How worthless all this money was! He bent and touched the holy Guru's feet and as he left, there were tears in his eyes.

Soon, kitchens were set up across the city where hot food was served to the poor twice a day, schools for poor children were started and free hospitals looked after the sick and the suffering.

When this much-loved man, who had done so much '*sewa*', died, everyone came to pay his last respects to him. Duni Chand took many good deeds and good wishes up to heaven with him.



Explanatory exercises-

Note- Read the following exercises, understand them and learn.

Word- Meanings-

1. **Sikh** – someone who learns, a follower of the Sikhi religion
2. **Magnificent** – extremely beautiful, great
3. **Luxuries** – richness
4. **Preach** – speak about or spread the word of God
5. **rushed out-** moved out quickly, travelled rapidly
6. **Bragged** – boasted
7. **Feast** – a formal meal
8. **Wealthiest** – richest
9. **Hesitate** – not ready to do something
10. **Urns** – decorative pots
11. **Silks** – a delicate, soft type of cloth
12. **Eventually** – in the end
13. **Gushed** – full of enthusiasm, bubbled over
14. **Self-importance** – sense of one’s own importance
15. **see-off** – go with the person who is leaving to the point of his departure
16. **Boast** – show off, to speak too proudly and happily about oneself
17. **Task** – work , job
18. **Entrusted** – put something into someone’s care
19. **Utter** – complete, total
21. **Astonishment** – surprise
21. **Giggling** – to laugh in a silly way
22. **Silly** – stupid
23. **Realize** – to understand
24. **Worth** – value
25. **Heaven** – paradise
26. **Twice** – two times
27. **Sewa** – service

28.last respects – come to pay respect to the person who has just died

29.Deeds – actions

Reference to the Context-

“ Is that all? Most certainly, Holy Sir, most certainly.”

(a) Who said the above lines and to whom?

Answer- Duni Chand said the above lines to Guru Nanak.

(b) Why did the speaker say these words?

Answer- The speaker said these words because the holy guru, Guru Nanak gave him (the speaker) a fine, silver needle and asked him to keep it safely and return it back to him in heaven.

Short Question-Answers-

1.Who was Duni Chand?

Answer- Duni Chand was the richest man in the city of Lahore. He lived in a magnificent palace surrounded by all the luxuries of life.

Answers in detail-

1.What information did Duni Chand get one day? What did he do?

Answer- One day, Duni Chand came to know that the holy guru, Guru Nanak was preaching in the city of Lahore.

When he came to know about Guru Nanak, he immediately rushed out to the place where Guru Nanak was staying and invited him to his palace to a special dinner in his honour.

2.Duni Chand was ‘surrounded by all the luxuries of life.’ Explain.

Answer- Duni Chand was the richest man in the city of Lahore. He lived in a magnificent palace with huge rooms. He had expensive carpets and curtains, the paintings on the walls, the silver urns filled with flowers and the ladies of the house were dressed in the finest of silks, laden with gold jewellery.

3.Why did Duni Chand’s wife laugh at him?

Answer- When Duni Chand began to boast to his wife about the special task with which the holy man had entrusted him, his wife started to laugh at him as to how he would take the needle with him to heaven.

Exercises-

Ex.1 Fill in the blanks-

1. Duni Chand was the ____ man in the city of Lahore.
2. Guru Nanak was given a grand welcome at the ____.
3. _____ means 'someone who learns.'
4. Duni Chand realized that all his wealth was ____ nothing.
5. Guru Nanak gave Duni Chand a silver ____.

Ex.2 Answer the following questions in one / two words-

1. Who invited Guru Nanak for a dinner?
2. In which city did Duni Chand live?
3. Guru Nanak was the founder of ____ faith.
4. Who was the much-loved man?
5. Who started the school for poor children?

Ex.3 Who said to whom?

1. 'It will be the best evening of your life.'
2. 'I want you to keep this fine needle safely.'
3. 'You silly man!'
4. 'Is that all?'
5. 'If you can't carry a tiny needle with you, how will you take all your wealth and property with you to heaven?'

Ex.4 Make Sentences –

Note- The child should make the sentences using the following words. The first one has been done for you.

1. **rushed out-** As soon as the class was over, the children rushed out of the classroom.

2. **task-**

3. **deeds-**

4. **feast-**

(6)

Ex.5 Short Questions-

1. What all did Duni Chand take with him to heaven?
2. Describe the wonderful evening.
3. Did Guru Nanak accept the invitation?
4. What is the moral of the story?

Ex.6 Long Questions-

1. What job did Guru Nanak entrust Duni Chand with?
2. 'Duni Chand was quiet as he began to realize the truth. ' What truth did Duni Chand begin to realize?
3. What 'sewa' had Duni Chand done that made him a 'much- loved ' man?
4. Why did Duni Chand rush back to Guru Nanak? How did the holy man react?

(7)

END