

The wise man

A king had heard about a holy man who was very wise. The king thought about the possibility of bringing that man to his Court, so he decided to send someone to look for him. That wise man obeyed the king and went to his side and the king begged him to stay with him and guide him as well as to punish his vices if he had any. The wise man accepted the King's offer and stayed with him giving him guidance and helping him to avoid evil. One day the king happened to be with his counsellors to decide about an important event occurring in their kingdom. Near the king there was a huge snake which was the most important counsellor to the king. When the wise man saw the snake, he asked the king what being a king meant to him. The king answered: "Being a king is the same as being God on Earth, that is to say, to be right and rule the people God has commended to him". The wise man replied: "According to your answer you have to kill the snake otherwise you will sin against God because you must refuse all that God refuses most". When the wise man had finished his speech the king killed the snake and it had no time to protect itself.

QUESTIONS.

1. Give a title to the story.
2. What do you think about the king's decision? Why?
3. Why do you think the unwanted animal is a snake?
4. Do you think the story has a religious background. Why?
5. Are there in the text any conditional sentences? Which ones?
6. Explain the difference between MUST and HAVE TO.
7. Vocabulary. Explain the meaning of:
 - Avoid:
 - Guidance:
 - Huge:
 - Speech:
8. Retell the same story in not more than five lines.