



The Yaksha's Questions 1 - 16



Mahabharatha Collection



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Description: The profound incident from Mahabharata where Yudhishtira's wisdom and adherence to Dharma saved his brothers' lives through answering the Yaksha's queries







Tags: yaksha-prashnam, yudhishtira, dharma, mahabharata, pandavas, krishna, draupadi












Yaksha Prashnam: Questions 1-16





Below is a detailed summary of the first sixteen questions asked by the Yaksha to Yudhishtira. This exchange highlights profound truths about nature, duty, and human behavior.

No.	Question (English)	Sanskrit Question	Yudhishtira's Answer	Story / Explanation 
1	What is it that makes the sun rise up?	<i>Kiṃsvid Ādityam Unnayati?</i>	Brahma (The Vedas/Supreme Truth)	<p>The Veda makes the sun rise.</p> <p>Story: Nature performs its duties out of respect for the Supreme (<i>Bhīṣōdēti Sūryaha</i>). Even the Sun rises due to the command of the Brahma.</p>
2	Who are his surrounding attendants?	<i>Ke Tasya Abhitaḥ Charāḥ?</i>	Devas (The Gods)	<p>The Devas are his attendants.</p> <p>Explanation: Just as a</p>

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3	Who makes the sun set?	<i>Kaś Chainam Astam Nayati?</i>	Dharma	<p>VIP does not walk alone, the Sun is accompanied by Devas, Gandharvas, and Rishis throughout his journey. </p> <p>Dharma makes the sun set.</p> <p>Story: Krishna explained Dharma to Arjuna using fire and water. Just as heat is the Dharma of fire, setting at the appointed time is the inherent Dharma of the Sun. </p> <p>He is firmly grounded in Truth.</p>
4	In which is he firmly placed?	<i>Kasmin Cha Pratiṣṭhitaḥ?</i>	Satyam (Truth)	<p>Explanation: The Sun does not fall because he is established in Truth. The precision of the Sun (predicted a year in advance) is proof of this grounding. </p> <p>By Vedic culture/ listening a person becomes a scholar.</p>
5	By what does a person become a Vedic scholar?	<i>Kena Svid Shrotriyo Bhavati?</i>	Srutena (Listening)	<p>Story: One becomes a scholar through <i>Sruti</i> (listening), not just birth. As the Thirukkural says,</p>

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6	By what means does he attain the Great?	<i>Kena Svid Vindate Mahat?</i>	Tapasa (Penance)	<p>"The wealth of the ear is the greatest wealth." </p> <p>By Tapas a person attains the Great.</p> <p>Story: When Brahma was born on the lotus, he found his purpose only after hearing "Ta-Pa" and performing penance to attain the power to create. </p> <p>By steadfastness a person acquires a second.</p>
7	By what does a person acquire a second to him?	<i>Kena Svid Dvitiyavān Bhavati?</i>	Dhriti (Steadfastness)	<p>Explanation: <i>Dhriti</i> means consistency. Just as a student must be consistent to succeed, steadfastness allows one to sustain a companion or result. </p> <p>By service of elders a person becomes wise.</p>
8	By what means does a man become wise?	<i>Kena Cha Buddhimān?</i>	Vridha Sevaya (Serving Elders)	<p>Explanation: Intelligence comes from serving learned elders with humility. A pleased guru imparts knowledge, such as proper etiquette and wisdom. </p>

No.	Question (English)	Sanskrit Question	Yudhishtira's Answer	Story / Explanation 
9	What is the divine nature of Brahmanas?	<i>Kim Brāhmaṇānām Devatvam?</i>	Swadhyaya (Vedic Study)	<p>The practice of Vedas is their divine nature.</p> <p>Explanation: A Brahmana achieves god-like status through constant practice. Like a musician practicing for perfection, they must practice to retain Vedic potency. </p> <p>Their Tapas is similar to that of the good.</p>
10	What is their right conduct similar to that of the good?	<i>Kaś Cha Dharmah Satām Iva?</i>	Tapas (Penance)	<p>Story: Maintaining Tapas is difficult. Vishwamitra lost his Tapas due to the Apsara Menaka but had to perform it again to regain his stature. </p> <p>Their mortality is the ordinary human nature.</p>
11	In what consists their ordinary human nature?	<i>Kaś Chaiṣām Mānuṣo Bhāvaḥ?</i>	Maranam (Death)	<p>Explanation: Despite learning or Tapas, they are subject to death. The certainty of leaving the body is the shared human trait. </p>
12	What is it in them that is similar to that of the bad?	<i>Kim Eṣām Asatām Iva?</i>	Parivado (Gossip)	<p>Talking scandal is their conduct similar to that of the bad.</p> <p>Analogy: Just as food</p>

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				gets stuck between teeth (<i>Dvijās</i>), secrets get stuck between the "twice-born" (<i>Dvijās</i>). They struggle to keep secrets and eventually gossip.  Arrows and missiles constitute their divineness.
13	What constitutes the divineness of Kshatriyas?	<i>Kiṃ Kṣatriyāṇāṃ Devatvam?</i>	Astras & Shastras (Weapons)	Story: Arjuna went to Indraloka specifically to acquire divine weapons (<i>Astras</i>), proving that weaponry is the divine aspect of a warrior.  Yagnas or sacrifices are their good qualities.
14	What is their quality similar to that of goodness?	<i>Kaś Cha Dharmā Satām Iva?</i>	Yajna (Sacrifice)	Explanation: A King's duty is to perform Yagnas to ensure rain and prosperity for the state and the welfare of the people.  Fear is their humanness.
15	What constitutes their humanness?	<i>Kaś Chaiṣāṃ Mānuṣo Bhāvaḥ?</i>	Bhayam (Fear)	Story: Prince Uttara Kumara boasted about fighting but was gripped by fear and wanted to flee when he actually

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16	What is their quality similar to that of bad men?	<i>Kim Eṣāṃ Asatām Iva?</i>	Parityago (Abandonment)	<p>saw the Kaurava army. </p> <p>Abandonment of the afflicted is their bad quality.</p> <p>Story: Rama killed Vali because Vali did not accept Sugriva's surrender. Refusing to protect a refugee is a grave sin for a warrior. </p>

Reference

[Watch the detailed explanation here](#)



Acknowledgment & Disclaimer

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