

UNSEEN PASSAGES

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

Life is what you make it. One finds many options to be chosen while moving ahead in life. Sometimes what life offers you and the opportunities that come your way don't suit your heart. They might be good for having a comfortable life but "life is where heart is".

Similar happened with Shivesh Bhatia, the famous baker and the food blogger as we know him today! Delhi-based Shivesh changed his path after graduation after studying political science as it was not his "life-calling". "I didn't give myself an option. There was no plan B, so I didn't write entrance exams for any other course. I knew I wanted to bake," says the baker, during a visit to Hyderabad. He couldn't have been happier when he started to blog.

Shivesh had seen his naani and mother baking delicious cakes at home during his childhood and he got fancied towards baking since then. He took to this art naturally as he inherited the art from them. Once when his naani was unwell, his cousins and he decided to try her signature chocolate cake. That began his tryst with baking. "My naani's cake was out of this world. Nothing comes close to what she used to bake and I don't even try to match up." He tried his hand at chocolate cupcakes, but that was an 'absolute disaster.' "I was fascinated with the fact that simple ingredients can magically transform into a colourful dish in the oven." His social media page is flooded with pictures of his baking experiments and successes.

He wanted to take his food blogging to the next level and launched his first book Bake with Shivesh with 50 recipes. Buoyed by the response, he set out on a second book, this time a compilation of his favourite 100 recipes. "Releasing a book was something that I wanted to do ever since I had a food blog. It is a dream come true and the response was incredible." He is happy sticking to his niche area of baking desserts. "I only bake. I have not gone into regular cooking."

His recipes are tested multiple times before they find a place in his book. "I want my recipes to be fool proof and work even for beginners. The idea is to bring down every dessert into a simple recipe so that it is easy to read and follow. A lot of time and effort goes before we finalise them." The last two years have been hectic and his days begin with 'maida and sugar'. Now he has a team to help at his studio kitchen in Delhi where he

spends most of his time. When he is not trying recipes, you will find him conducting workshops or travelling. "No matter how busy I am, I try to include a small workout session," says Shivesh.

The self-taught baker derives his ideas from the internet and by experimenting on his own. "Instagram is a great way to connect with people, especially other chefs. Learning is an ongoing process and the best way to learn and teach is to just go for it. Even in failure, you can incorporate your learning experience in what you are doing next."

Shivesh has a series of successes and achievements. In 2016, Shivesh won the 'Outlook Social Media Award' and in 2017, he won the award for "Social Media Star of the Year' by Conde Nast Traveller and the 'Best Dessert Blog' by Better Homes and Gardens. He won the 'Best Food Instagrammer at the Living Foodz Epicurean Guild Awards. Shivesh has been in Vogue's list of 20 under 26 and was also one of five bloggers invited by Foxlife India to meet Chef Gary Mehigan when he visited India. In spite of so many achievements, his family and friends - his official testers - keep him grounded. "My family will throw me out of the house if I put on airs," he laughs. "They are my direct contact with reality and make sure I am the same person they knew before I got into social media. I take feedback from them. My twin sister keeps blaming me that she has to go to the gym because of me."

The food blogging scene is robust with self-styled critics who have an opinion on everything. Shivesh tries to stand apart by not reviewing a restaurant or food promotion. He only shares a recipe and the knowledge he gained by experimenting in the kitchen. "My experiences and adventures help to make my work unique and that is what I tell anyone who wants to enter the food space as is so crowded now. It is important to bring something fresh to the table so that no one can copy you."

Source: THE HINDU and THE TRIBUNE

(1) "Life is where heart is" - As per this saying, Shivesh's heart was at_____.

(b) politics

(a) baking

(d) desserts

(i) What was plan B for Shivesh?

(a) To have an Instagram account with followers from all across the globe.

(b) There was no plan B but to bake.

- (c) To use social media to promote his passion.
- (d) To study political science at higher level.
- (iii) When did Shivesh feel the happiest?
 - (a) When he tried his luck on baking.
 - (b) When he became a successful baker.
 - (c) When he became a food blogger.
 - (d) When he completed his graduation degree.
- (iv) Who were Shivesh's first teachers for baking?
 - (a) His grand mom and mom.
 - (b) His own experiments
 - (c) The recipes he found on the net.
 - (d) All of the above
- (v) For Shivesh, 'simple recipes' meant _____.
 - (a) a recipe with few ingredients
 - (b) a recipe that would need less time
 - (c) a reliable recipe even for beginners
 - (d) a recipe completely different from the existing recipes
- (vi) Synonym for 'fool proof',
 - (a) infallible
 - (b) detailed
 - (c) lucid
 - (d) elaborate
- (vii) His days begin with 'maida and sugar', means
 - (a) he loved the two ingredients
 - (b) he used to have something made of maida and sugar for breakfast
 - (c) he used to try new recipes every day
 - (d) he used to sleep keeping the ingredients for baking beside him to start the next day trying new recipes
- (viii) How, according to Shivesh, failures help?
 - (a) Failures provide a great learning experience for following ventures.
 - (b) Failures familiarise one about one's weaknesses.
 - (c) Try something new after failing at one thing.
 - (d) Failures make you stronger and more confident.
- (ix) What were Shivesh's earnings as a baker and a blogger?
 - (a) Awards and achievements.
 - (b) Followers on social media.
 - (c) Respect and appreciation.

- (d) All of the above.
- (x) Choose the correct statement:
 - (a) Popularity made Shivesh arrogant.
 - (b) Shivesh knew he was the best baker.
 - (c) His recipes are the same as his grand mom's
 - (d) Shivesh is a grounded person.
- (i) What is the most important ingredient of Shivesh's success?
 - (a) His grand mom's and mom's support to him.
 - (b) His family and friends.
 - (c) His innovative and novel ideas and recipes.
 - (d) All of the above.
- (xi) What message is conveyed through the story of the baker?
 - (a) Subsequent failures would gradually take a turn towards success.
 - (b) One must follow one's heart for a contented future.
 - (c) Baking is not everyone's cup of tea.
 - (d) We must learn from our elders' experiences.

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

Idol worship is prevalent in our society since time immemorial. What are the benefits of worshipping an idol and why this practice is followed with all the possible dedication? Idol worship in Hindu religion is considered a symbol of faith and is very significant to show devotion towards God. It is believed that God is omnipresent, that is, God exists in all its creation, even the tiniest creation has God in it.

An idol refers to an object of extreme devotion. It is a symbol or representation of God, as we visualise Him. It gives a form to our imagination for the one who takes care of the whole universe. We place idols in the temple and at the sacred place of our house. The temple is one where the people of all classes come to offer prayers to their God, to seek for His blessings.

Idolatry is the worship of an idol as though it were God. The idol in which we have the image, form or shape of any god is worshipped. Idolatry is the worship of an idol or image, being a picture, a statue, or a person in place of God. In Judaism, Christianity and Islam, idolatry means worshiping something that is not God. These religions teach that there is only one God. Idolatry is said to be the "worship of false gods".

People in olden times were at peace with themselves. Their lives were disciplined and they used to devote some time of their routine to be with God in the form of expressing gratitude for life's little joys God had filled their lives with. But it's entirely different these days. The chaos, the turmoil of modern lives has disabled us to meditate. Humans can't sit in a peaceful atmosphere even for a short duration of time and be one with God. Our minds are overly occupied with plans of meeting deadlines, achieving targets and competing against one another. Therefore, our ancestors made a simple medium of calming oneself by worshipping the idol. The place where the idol is established has sanctity. The atmosphere around the place is also pure and holy. So, whosoever comes to that place purifies his mind. He is willing to forget about his troubles and makes a real effort to concentrate and be with God. The person who manages to achieve and reach the point of oneness with the God almighty has the strength of mind and body. The person whose mind is pure and holy, God resides in his heart. Idol worship refers to connecting with our protector in a better way and creating faith and devotion among people. Whenever we are in trouble, we tend to seek shelter in God. Idol introduces devotees to the spiritual aspect of God. The physical image of God in the form of an idol introduces humans to the face given to the God by us and also helps people to be aware about the existence of the universal mentor. This image enables devotees to concentrate and receive positive energy while worshipping God. As per Hinduism, idol worshipping would help attain ultimate salvation. It also promotes equality as people from different sections of the society gather at the same holy place to worship. This is a humble way of developing purity and belief in God. This is the address of simple faith in God's universal presence.

(i) An idol is a symbol of

(a) reverence

(b) devotion

(c) faith

(d) All of the above

(ii) Who takes care of the whole universe?

(a) The God

(b) Humans

(c) The supernatural powers

(d) None of the above

- (iii) An idol can be defined as
- (a) the universal form of God
 - (b) a form or appearance visible but without substance
 - (c) visualisation of the god as per individual preference
 - (d) All of the above
- (iv) The term 'omnipresent' means
- (a) permanent
 - (b) temporary
 - (c) universal
 - (d) finite
- (v) Different religions have.
- (a) numerous
 - (c) different
- (vi) The place of worship should be ____.
- (a) immense and iconic
 - (b) spiritual and sacred
 - (c) expensive and pretentious
 - (d) popular and prestigious
- (vii) All religions ____ (in) idolatry.
- (a) believe
 - (b) follow
 - (c) confide
 - (d) don't believe
- (viii) A synonym for 'turmoil'.
- (a) unrest
 - (b) orderliness
 - (c) peace
 - (d) comfort
- (ix) Why has life become chaotic in present times?
- (a) Discontentment with life.
 - (b) Race against time.
 - (c) Diluted characters.
 - (d) All of the above.
- (x) Where do we get real solace after getting completely stressed out?
- (a) By remembering the protector of the universe.

(b) By earning more money.

(c) By idling out.

(d) By indulging in extravagancy.

(xi) What is the sole purpose of 'idol worship'?

(a) Spreading blind faith.

(b) Changing people's conviction towards religion.

(c) Promoting secularism.

(d) Relieving people and enabling them to lead a peaceful life.

(xii) The term 'universal mentor' refers to

(a) the god

(b) the people

(c) the teacher

(d) None of the above