



Notes of Moments Chapter 1 – The Lost Child

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I. Question and Answers

Q1. What are the things the child sees on his way to the fair? Why does he lag behind?

Answer 2 On his trip to the fairs the boy sees a lot of things that intrigue him. On the side of the road, he noticed a lot of toy stores. His mother offers him a nearby flowering mustard field to distract him from his toys. The child notices dragonflies and butterflies fluttering among the flowers in the fields. The insects and worms astonished him as he walked along the route. He heard cooing doves as he entered the forest where his parents were resting. As he and his parents approached the settlement, he noticed large throngs of people heading to the fair. As he comes closer to the fair, he notices a lot of shops converging on it. A sweetmeat vendor selling burfi and Gulab-jamun, as well as a flower vendor selling a garland of Gulmohar a short distance away. He notices a man selling rainbow-colored balloons as he walks forward. A snake charmer stood nearby, playing the flute to a snake. Finally, he saw a roundabout swing before losing sight of his folks. The child continues falling behind on the journey because he is interested in everything he sees along the way. He makes stops to buy toys and to observe the beauty of nature — collecting flowers and catching butterflies – at different times.

Q2. In the fair he wants many things. What are they? Why does he move on without waiting for an Answer?

Answer 2 The things that he sees on the fair are

- Toys and balloons
- Burfi from the sweetmeat vendor
- Garland of Gulmohar
- Watching the snake charmer play the flute to a snake
- A trip on the roundabout is some of the things that children want at the fairs.



Q3. When does he realize that he has lost his way? How have his anxiety and insecurity been described?

Answer 3 He realizes he's lost his way as he comes to a complete halt at the roundabout, which is bustling with men, women, and children having a good time. He turned to his parents, closely watching them, to ask for permission to go on the rounds, but they didn't respond. He turned around to look for them, but they were nowhere to be seen. He looked everywhere but couldn't find them. His nervousness and insecurity are beautifully expressed.

The following is an account of his anxious moments:

With a violent jerk of his body, he raced from where he was, calling out in genuine fear, "Mother, Father." Tears streamed down his cheeks, and his hot face trembled with terror. Panicked, he ran from side to side, in all directions, unsure of where he was going. His turban had become unfastened, and his garments had become dirty.

In the tiniest aspects of his body language, the author has portrayed the dread and fear that a child feels in such situations. This allows the reader to emotionally relate to the child's situation.

Q4. Why does the lost child lose interest in the things that he had wanted earlier?

Answer 4 Because he was panicked after being separated from his parents, the lost child loses interest in the things he wanted before. He only desired to be reunited with them. All of the things that drew him to the fair have faded from his mind as he understands that being with his parents is more important.

Q5. What do you think happens in the end? Does the child find his parents?

Answer 5 Finally, the parents, who had been checking to see if he was with them from the beginning of their voyage, may have recognized he was missing and came looking for the missing child. The compassionate and caring man who tried to calm the small kid by offering him various items at the fair may have also inquired about his parents and assisted him in reuniting with them.



II. Summary

The Lost Child is an interesting story written by Mulk Raj Anand. In this story, a child visits a spring fair with his parents. The place was crowded with people and there were different kinds of stalls set up in the fair. The child was overjoyed when he saw the toys in the shops and pleaded to his parents to buy him a toy. But his father gave him a stern look upon hearing his request. Meanwhile, his mother asked him to see the mustard field which looked like a field of gold. A group of dragonflies were fluttering their colourful wings over the mustard flowers. The child tried catching one of those colourful insects, but as his mother called him to the footpath and he ran towards his parents gaily. He heard the cooing of doves and picked up some petals in the grove. But again, as his parents called him, he made his way towards them while he was running around the banyan tree.

When the child reached the fair with his parents, he saw a sweetmeat seller calling out 'Gulab Jaman, rasagulla, burfi, jalebi'. His mouth watered seeing the tasty sweets and he asked his father to buy him a sweet. But no one paid heed to his request. As he went ahead with his parents, he heard a flower-seller selling 'A garland of gulmohur'. He saw the basket of flowers and wanted to buy a garland. However, he knew his parents would not buy him the flowers, so he moved on with them. Then, he noticed a balloon-man selling rainbow colour balloons. He wanted to buy those balloons, but he knew that his parents would refuse, considering he was comparatively older to play with those colourful balloons. Hence, he walked past the balloon-man with his parents.

As he moved forward, the child noticed a snake-charmer who was playing a flute to a snake coiled in a basket. He went closer to the snake-charmer, but he knew his parents wouldn't approve of his listening to such coarse music. So, he walked further and saw a merry-go-round. He observed that many people were enjoying the ride and called out to his parents that he wanted to take a ride. But there was no reply from them. When he turned around, he couldn't find his parents nearby. The child desperately looked out for his parents, but they were nowhere to be found. He understood that he was lost so he started sobbing.

The child gave out a loud deep cry and tears started rolling down his eyes as he searched for his parents everywhere. He cried loudly and ran to



and fro, but he couldn't find his parents anywhere. The place was very crowded, and he ran to the shrine if he could find them there.

Unfortunately

he was lost and as he was little

he went ahead crossing many people who were huge in size there.

Suddenly

a man heard his cry and lifted him up in his arms. The child was fortunate that he was picked up by an affectionate man. The kind man asked him about his parents

but the child replied sobbingly not knowing their whereabouts. The man tried to pacify the child and asked him if he would like to take a ride on the merry-go-round. But the child replied that he wanted his parents only. Soon

the man took the child to the balloon-man

sweet shop and flower-seller and asked if he would like to buy any of those

but the young boy refused. He was adamant that he wanted nothing

but his parents. The child turned his face away from all those things which he wanted to buy earlier. Thus

the child only shouted

'I want my mother

I want my father!'