



The Yaksha's Questions 1 - 16



Mahabharatha Collection

Date: 2025-12-01

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

Tags: yaksha-prashnam, yudhishthira, 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 Yudhishthira. This exchange highlights profound truths about nature, duty, and human behavior.

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

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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>
4	In which is he firmly placed?	<i>Kasmin Cha Pratiṣṭhitah?</i>	Satyam (Truth)	<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>
5	By what does a person become a Vedic scholar?	<i>Kena Svid Shrotriyo Bhavati?</i>	Srutena (Listening)	<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>
				<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>
7	By what does a person acquire a second to him?	<i>Kena Svid Dvitiyavān Bhavati?</i>	Dhriti (Steadfastness)	<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>
8	By what means does a man become wise?	<i>Kena Cha Buddhimān?</i>	Vriddha Sevaya (Serving Elders)	<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> <p>Explanation: Intelligence comes from serving learned elders with humility. A pleased guru imparts knowledge, such as proper etiquette and wisdom. </p>

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9	What is the divine nature of Brahmanas? <i>Devatvam?</i>	<i>Kim Brāhmaṇānām</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>
10	What is their right conduct similar to that of the good?	<i>Kaś Cha Dharmah Satām Iva?</i>	Tapas (Penance)	<p>Their Tapas is similar to that of the good.</p> <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 Chaiśām Mānuṣo Bhāvah?</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> <p>Talking scandal is their conduct similar to that of the bad.</p>
12	What is it in them that is similar to that of the bad?	<i>Kim Eṣām Asatām Iva?</i>	Parivado (Gossip)	Analogy: Just as food

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

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

Reference

[Watch the detailed explanation here](#)



Acknowledgment & Disclaimer

These articles are based on discourses by **Sri Dushyanth Sridhar**, who renders discourses in English & Tamil on Rāmāyana, Mahābhārata, Bhāgavata, Vishnu Purāna, Bhagavad Gitā, Vishnu Sahasranāma, and Divya Prabanda in the upanyāsam, pravachanam, or kālakshepam style. Visit <https://desikadaya.org> for more information. These notes are presented solely for educational purposes to help viewers download and benefit from these teachings. Any incorrect interpretations or inaccuracies are mine and unintentional—please forgive me. For any feedback, please send an [email](#).