

Short questions and answers on “The Wife of Bath’s Prologue”

1. **“Experience, though noon auctoritee” Explain the meaning of ‘auctoritee’.**

Ans:- Here ‘auctoritee’ means no written command; the authority of the scriptures.

2. **“For, lordinges, sith I twelf yeer was of age” What is the meaning of ‘lordinges’ in this line?**

Ans:- Here in this line ‘lordinges’ means something like “Ladies and gentlemen”.

3. **Explain the meaning of the line “sholde lete fader and moder, and take to me.”**

Ans:- The meaning of this line is that a man shall leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife. (Gospel of St. Mathew 19,5)

4. **Who is referred to as “Th’Apostel” in line no 64?**

Ans:- In line no 64 St. Paul is referred to as “Th’Apostel”.

5. **Why does Wife of Bath give reference to the name of Lameth in case of bigamy?**

Ans:- Wife of Bath refers to the name of Lameth in case of bigamy because Lameth is the first man mentioned in The Bible as to have taken two wives.

6. **What was “Almageste” and who wrote it?**

Ans:- “Almageste” was a book on astronomy and the translated version of the treatise “al majisti”. Ptolemy of Alexandria, a great astronomer, wrote it.

7. **What is the meaning of “Statut holde” in line no 198?**

Ans:- The word may mean the bond between husband and wife but Wife of Bath is more forthright and her remark is directed at the impotence of her husbands.

8. **What is the name of Wife of Bath?**

Ans:- The name of Wife of Bath is Alisoun.

9. **Why does Wife of Bath give reference to “Essex at Dunmowe”?**

Ans:- In Dunmowe in Essex, bacon was given as a prize to a couple who claimed that they had never quarrelled. Wife of Bath refers to this because she has no interest in such a prize.

10. **What is the name of the fifth husband of Wife of Bath?**

Ans:- Jankin is the name of the fifth husband of Wife of Bath.

11. **At what age was The Wife of Bath first married?**

Ans:- The Wife of Bath was 12 when she was first married.

12. **Name two arguments that the wife uses in her defense of the married state.**

Ans:- Her arguments for marriage include : God would not have given humans sexual organs if He did not intend for them to be used and many people have too much sexual energy for the celibate state.

13. **What is the Wife of Bath’s philosophy of marriage?**

Ans:- The Wife of Bath’s philosophy of marriage is that the wife must control the marriage in all areas.

14. **How has the Wife of Bath changed as she has aged?**

Ans:- Wife of Bath has become less attractive and less energetic when she has aged.

15. **In what way were her fourth and fifth husbands different from the first three?**

Ans:- The first three were old and easy to control but the last two were young and tried to control her.

16. Why does The Wife of Bath consider herself as an expert on marriage?

Ans:- The Wife of Bath considers herself as an expert on marriage because she has five husbands.

17. Which part of scripture does she use to justify her many marriages?

Ans:- The Wife of Bath uses the part, that says to be fruitful and multiply, to justify her many marriages.

18. According to Wife of Bath What is her great power?

Ans:- According to Wife of Bath her sexual power is her great power.

19. How did The Wife of Bath dominate her old husbands?

Ans:- The Wife of Bath dominated her old husbands by withholding sex until they did what she wanted.

20. What did her fourth husband do?

Ans:- Her fourth husband kept a lover but one day died on a pilgrimage.

21. What did The Wife of Bath's fifth husband do?

Ans:- The Wife of Bath's fifth husband treated her horribly, beat her and caused the deafness in one of her ears.

22. Which of her husbands did she marry for love?

Ans:- Among all her husbands the horrible fifth husband was the one whom she married for love.

23. How old were The wife of Bath and Jankin when they met?

Ans:- The Wife of Bath was forty and Jankin was twenty when they met.

24. What is the "Book of Wicked Wives"?

Ans:- "Book of Wicked Wives" is a book Jankin liked to read to Wife of Bath about the most treacherous women in history.

25. What is the meaning of "fruit of marriage" in "Wife of Bath's Prologue" ?

Ans:- The church fathers interpreted these words to mean begetting children which was the true fruit of marriage but Wife of Bath interprets 'fruit' as sexual pleasure.