



Daily Article (Bharath's Reading list) - Answers and Explanations 10.04.2024

Article link : [Link](#) (Why We Need Fools: Jesters, Power, and Cults of Personality)

1. According to the article, being a fool was, paradoxically, a plum job that conferred immense power as:

- A. Jesters had unique opportunities to sway royals to do their bidding
- B. Jesters were vital for leaders to get honest feedback without losing face
- C. Jesters could say what others couldn't and were hence regarded as the most trustworthy people around court
- D. All the above

Explanation : B

All given options are true, based on the article.

2. All jesters mentioned below were 'sage fools' except:

- A. George Buchanan
- B. Jesse Bogdonoff
- C. Triboulet
- D. Lunatic of Kufa

Explanation: B

The article highlights the wisdom of all jesters mentioned, except Bogdonoff. Note the line, 'In the annals of jesters, Bogdonoff's catastrophic folly in Tonga was an outlier.'

3. Which of the following best sums up what the jester's "happy unhappy" way of communicating involves?



- A. Good-natured acceptance of honest criticism
- B. Subtly influencing those in power with advice cloaked in jest
- C. Speaking the truth to power without fear of offense
- D. Blatantly ignoring the decorum of deferential niceties

Explanation: C

The main idea of the article is that jesters were crucial to court as their "happy unhappy" way of communicating enabled them speak truth to power without fear of offense. Option A is incorrect: the job of the jester was not the acceptance but the delivery of honest criticism. Also note that option B is not as apt as C. While "happy unhappy" communication could influence those in power, it actually involves speaking truth to power, not cloaking 'advice' in jest. Also, jesters were not always subtle.