

The Old Fishermen Society In Pakistan

- 1 The Mohana fishermen of central Pakistan are one of the oldest societies in human history. They lead a life that has not altered for 5,000 years. They live in houseboats that are attached to each other by ropes to form floating villages on the banks of the River Indus in the region of Sind. Few other living creatures survive there. The climate is unpredictable and travelling down the river is too dangerous. The Mohana live as they have always lived: each person's role in the society is determined. There are three castes, which are determined by the traditional river trades: fishing, boat building and ferrying. The fishermen, or the *shikari*, are the most unusual. They fish in the shallow waters along the sides of the river for catfish and turtles. This is no easy task: the alluvial currents make it almost impossible to locate the fish. The solution is to use herons, a kind of large bird.
- 2 Herons have oils on the surface of their eyes that function as colour filters. These enable them to detect fish below the surface of the water, which they then dive for and catch. However, a trained heron will stand still above the fish instead of diving. The fisherman approaches the heron in a boat, jumps into the water and traps the fish in a net known as the *kulari*. The Mohana have never kept herons in captivity. There are so many in the region that it is not necessary. Instead, they train fully-grown specimens. The idea of training herons may seem impossible to Europeans, but for the Mohana, this is a part of everyday life.
- 3 Despite their skills, the *shikari*, who make up nearly two-thirds of the Mohana people, are the lowest in rank among the three castes. Above them are the *kurmangar*, or carpenters, who build both the rowing boats and the houseboats in which the Mohana live. The highest caste of all is the *mirbamar*, who ferry, or carry, cargoes by boat to the northern and southern parts of Sind. They are the smallest caste but own most of the community's wealth.
- 4 Despite their long history, all these castes face a similar fate now: extinction. In other words, they probably won't be able to survive the 21st century. On one side, they are threatened by problems as old as their own traditions. They have to pay about half of their incomes to their feudal lords, the *zamidar* who own the banks of river. The rest of their income is often taken by armed robbers from the jungles of northern Sind. On the other side, they face modern dangers. Seven dams that have recently been constructed between the Punjab and southern Sind have closed trading routes for the *mirbamar* and killed many of the fish on which the *shikari* depend. Moreover the Mohana do not have enough contact with other Pakistanis to survive in the 21st century. They make no contribution to the country's economy as

BİLGİ – BİLET 2 READING EXERCISE

they are illiterate and nomadic. What's more the rest of the population, most of whom are Muslim, do not approve of the Mohana's religious beliefs. It seems that although the Mohana civilisation has survived for 5,000 years, it will not last another twenty years.

A. Fill in each gap using the information in the text.

(1) _____ has been the same for 5,000 years.
They live in (2) _____ formed by attaching
(3) _____ to one another with ropes. Living on the
banks of the River Indus is difficult because (4) _____
and (5) _____.

Fishing is difficult in the shallow waters of the River Indus because of the
alluvial currents. Therefore, the fishermen use herons

(6) _____.

B. Answer the following questions.

7. What determines a person's caste among the Mohana?

8. Which characteristic of herons lets them locate fish?

9. How do the *mirbamar* earn their living?

C. Mark the best choice.

10. Paragraph 4 is mainly about the _____.

- a. problems which are caused by the Mohana traditions.
- b. problems and the place of the Mohana in modern Muslim Pakistan.
- c. causes of the Mohana's poor living conditions
- d. future of the Mohana traditions in Pakistan

11. The writer's purpose is to _____.

- a. criticise
- b. make a question
- c. entertain
- d. give information

Cevap anahtarı için info@istdilakademisi.com adresinden bize ulaşın!