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**LOGICAL APPROACH TOWARDS THE SURPRISE TEST AND
UNEXPECTED HANGING PARADOX: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS****Dr. Bhabesh Gayen****Abstract**

Being rational human beings are fond of knowledge based on logic. Sometimes he acquires knowledge for the sake of life and sometimes just for the sake of knowledge. In this way of acquiring knowledge, human beings are to face some logical paradoxes. Pointing out the logical paradoxes and how to resolve the logical paradoxes are actually the instances of pure intellectual exercise and thereby the acquisition of knowledge for the sake of knowledge. And he/she hesitates as to which side he should take. As there are strong arguments for and against an issue, he cannot decide which side to take. As a result, he sometimes faces various logical puzzles. And sometimes he faces contradictory arguments. One such logical paradox is the Surprise Test Paradox or the Unexpected Hanging Paradox. Where one party i.e., one of the teachers announced on a Sunday that I will take a surprise test next week from Monday to Friday. Many students were shocked, but one of them stood up and said, 'Sir, you can't take our surprise test.' That means we won't be surprised by the test you take between Monday to Friday next week. But since the teacher did not announce any specific day or any specific time of the said week, it is obvious that the test taken suddenly will be a surprise test. But by mentioning the said matter, the student says that there can be no surprise. Because a surprise test can never be taken by announcing it in advance. Whenever it is announced that a surprise test will be taken next week then everyone is getting alerted about the test and preparing for the test. As a result, it is no longer a surprise test. But in this case, since the teacher did not mention any specific day or specific time of the mentioned week, whenever he organizes the exam of that week, it will be surprising, it is normal or it can be said that there is something to be surprised at least. But since the said student is claiming that it is not possible to take a surprise test by announcing it in advance, the matter remains open for discussion.

Again, almost the same repetition of the problem can be seen in the unexpected hanging paradox. Where a prisoner sentenced to death was told on a Sunday that you will be hanged suddenly on a day between next Monday to Friday. Then the condemned person said that it is not possible to hang him suddenly on any day of the said week. But the pronouncer did not mention any specific day or time. So why can't he be hanged suddenly? That is, the announcer is saying that it is possible to hang him suddenly but the person sentenced to death is saying that it is not possible to hang him suddenly. As a

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result, we need to judge whether the announcer can suddenly hang or not. Or whether the person sentenced to death on the strength of argument will be acquitted or not.

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