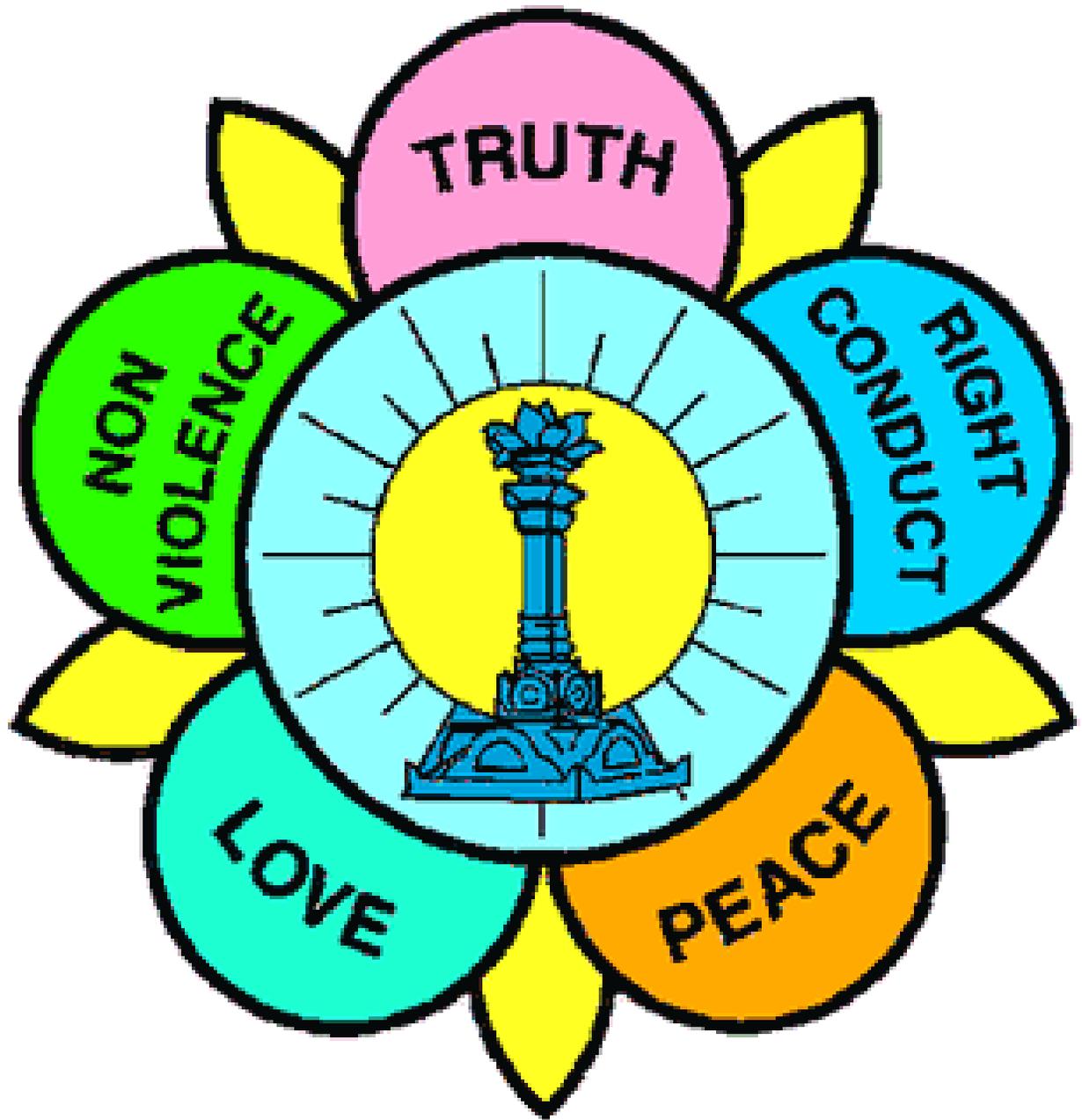


Human Values - Lesson 1



How many fingers do we have on each hand? Five, right? In the same way, in order to live a happy life, we should practice five virtues. These are:

- **TRUTH**
- **LOVE**
- **PEACE**
- **RIGHT ACTION**
- **NON-VIOLENCE**

These five basic values are essential for every one, just like the fingers of a hand! It would be hard to grasp a ball if we were missing a finger, wouldn't it? In the same way, it is hard to be peaceful if we don't have love. Each value works together.

Similarly, the education of these five basic values helps in building a character, and that leads to become a good citizen. There are tens and hundreds of sub-values for each of these basic values, and we will learn one by one in our Bal Vikas classes.

Today's lesson is on -

Human Value: *Truth*

Objective: *One should understand the importance of telling the truth, not to tell lies, and listen to one's own conscience.*

Story – Woodcutter and the Angel

There is no equal to truthfulness. God loves children who are true and we should not lie for any reason.

Once there lived a poor woodcutter. Though he was poor he was a very sincere and straightforward man. He used to go across a river every day, to a forest on the other bank to cut trees for firewood and sell it to make a livelihood.

He used to carry an iron axe with him for cutting the wood. One evening he was returning home after sunset. As he was very tired that day, he dropped his iron axe accidentally while crossing the river. He reached the other side of the riverbank and sat down cursing his fate.

Suddenly, an angel appeared before him and enquired the reason for his sadness. The woodcutter informed her about the loss of his iron axe without which he could not survive. The angel felt sorry and wanted to help him. She dived into the water and brought out a golden axe. She gave it to the woodcutter, but he refused to accept it, as it did not belong to him. She dived once again and this time brought out a silver axe. The woodcutter refused once again, as this also did not belong to him. Finally, she dived and brought out the iron axe, which was readily accepted by the woodcutter, as it was his property.

Appreciating his truthfulness, the angel presented the woodcutter with all the three axes. He was very happy, thanked the angel and returned home. He narrated the incident to his wife who in turn told her neighbors. One of them, who heard the story, grew jealous and wanted to have all the axes likewise. He too went to the river, dropped his iron axe on purpose, sat on the bank and began to moan about the loss. To his surprise the angel appeared and enquired about his cause for worry. He replied that he lost his axe while crossing the river. The angel consoled him, dived into the water and fetched a golden axe. When the angel offered the golden axe to him, he greedily accepted and complained that he had a silver one and an iron one too. After hearing this, the angel became very angry and disappeared with the golden axe, because he was dishonest and greedy. The dishonest man did not get back even his iron axe.

Truth is supreme and remains a treasure of an honest person. A lie may get you an immediate gain, which encourages you tell more lies, but in the end a liar always gets punished.

Questions:

- What happened to the first woodcutter's axe?
- What did angel do the first and second time?
- What was the wood cutter's answer?
- What did the second woodcutter do with his axe?
- How did the honest of the woodcutter reward him?
- What was the result of the greedy woodcutter's dishonesty?
- Can you think of some reasons why people lie?
- In what ways would you like your elders (parents and teachers) to help you in your attempt to be honest?

Shlokas:

Shuklam Baradaram Vishnum, Sasi Varnam Chatur Bhujam,

Prasanna Vadanam Dyayet, Sarva Vignoba Santaye

(Dressed in white you are; Oh, all pervading one; And glowing with the colour of moon.

With four arms, you are, the all knowing one; I meditate on your ever-smiling face,

And pray, Remove all obstacles on my way.)

Agajaanana Padmaarkam, Gajaananam Aharnisham

Aneka Dam Tam Bhaktaanam, Eka Dantam Upasmahe

(Seeing the elephant-faced Ganesha all the time, Goddess Parvati's face lighted up, just like how a

lotus opens up seeing the sun and I meditate upon the Lord with single tusk, the giver of many

boons to the devotees)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wt4Y5hQrURc>

Connect the Dots from 1 to 27, and Color it. Who is this?

