

Human Values - Lesson 5

As most of you know there are five basic human values and many sub-values associated with each of these basic values. We have learned about four human values, Truth, Love, Peace, and Right Conduct/Right Action in our previous lessons. Today, we will learn about Non-Violence, the fifth human value.

Non-Violence is the ethical principle of respect for all beings. The root meaning of this word is not causing hurt or injury to others by being benevolent. Non-Violence is not restricted to the physical aspect alone but includes thought, word, and deed. Truth expressed in right action, lovingly with peace, results in Non-Violence.

Human Value: Non-Violence

Sub Value: Not Hurting Others

Objective: One should always help others and never hurt whether by Thought, Word or Deed

Quotation: “Ahimsa means not to injure any creature by thought, word or deed, not even to the supposed disadvantage of this creature” – *Mahatma Gandhi*

Bhakta Jayadeva

Bhakta Jayadeva was a great poet and author of the best known composition, the epic poem “Geetha Govinda”. He was on a pilgrimage to Holy places. While traveling, he used to sing sweetly the Lord’s glories and was always engaged in the contemplation of the Lord. The king Gowdeswara Raja heard Jayadeva singing, and was overwhelmed with joy at his devotion. The king gave Jayadeva a big bag of gold coins as a token of his appreciation.

The bag of gold coins was more of a burden to Jayadeva. While traveling he was attacked by thieves who saw him with the gold. They axed his hands and legs and dumped him into a dry well and ran away with the gold coins. Even then Jayadeva who was in severe pain did not utter a word of curse. Instead, he chanted the Lord’s name loudly from the well.

The King Gowdeswara Raja who was passing through the forest with his convoy heard the beautiful words glorifying God. He sent his men and got Jayadeva extricated from the well. The king took Jayadeva to the palace, gave him medical aid and all the care needed. In spite of his asking, Jayadeva refused to reveal how he had fallen into the well or how the wicked thieves cut off his hands and legs. He knew that if he told the king about the thieves, the king would definitely find and punish them. He did not want to hurt them even though he was a victim of their cruelty.

The next day happened to be the king's birthday. The kingdom wore a festive look and the birthday was being celebrated in a grand way. On the occasion the king was distributing money to the poor and the needy. The king appointed Jayadeva to be in charge of the distribution. The poor and needy people were waiting in a line to receive the money. While distributing the money Jayadeva noticed in the line, the four thieves who had cut off his hands and legs. Instead of having them caught and punished, Jayadeva introduced them to the king as his relatives and requested the king to grant them more gold coins. The king did so accordingly and sent four soldiers to escort them back to their village.

When the four thieves reached the forest they sat under a tree and kept their luggage of gold coins near them. They repented for their cruel act to Jayadeva. The soldiers were surprised to see tears in their eyes. They told the soldiers the truth that it was they who were responsible for cutting off Jayadev's hands and legs.

The soldiers rushed back along with the thieves and told the king what had happened. The king was angry and ordered that they be put in the prison. But Jayadeva intervened and asked the king to forgive them. He said that because of their poverty they had done that crime. "I am sure they would have realized their mistake by now. Please do not punish them however big the mistake be", he said. At that moment, the Lord appeared in front of Jayadeva and appreciated his merciful action. Also, the Lord granted his legs and hands and blessed him.

Thus, Jayadeva conquered the hearts of the thieves who inflicted much pain on him and brought about mental transformation in them. By his merciful action and nobility, he won God's mercy and regained his health.

Questions:

- Who was Jayadeva?
- What did the king give to Jayadeva and why?
- What did thieves do to Jayadeva?
- Why didn't Jayadeva disclose anything about the thieves to the king?
- What made thieves repent their cruel action?
- How did Jayadeva win God's grace?
- What values Jayadeva had in him?
- What is the moral of this story?

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| Human Value: | Non-Violence |
| Sub Value: | Unity |
| Objective: | To show that what one person cannot do alone, can be accomplished by united effort |
| Quotation: | “United we stand, divided we fall.” |

Non-violence is universal love. Love is giving, rather than grasping. When we have inner peace, our desires are less. Non-violence means living in a way which causes as little harm as possible to oneself, other people, animals, plants and the planet. Non-violence is a sign of well-balanced personality.

Story – Unity is Strength

Disunity and disharmony had led to the destruction of many a race. Previously, the kings who ruled over different parts of India were not united. Foreign mercenaries took advantage of this disharmony and finally India ended up as a part of a foreign empire. Mahatma Gandhi, who expounded the principle of non-violence, used to stress on unity. Let us read a story to see what can be achieved by united effort.

There was once a flock of pigeons in a huge forest. They had a wise pigeon as their leader. He was a very good-hearted chief who looked after his flock well. The pigeons too had a lot of trust in their leader. The flock used to share whatever they found to eat in the jungle with one other. There was plenty to eat, and under the wise leadership of their chief they lived happily.

One day, a young male pigeon felt discontent. He did not see why he had to share all that he found with others. He was proud and even fancied that he was cleverer than the rest. One day he picked a quarrel with the leader and left the flock to be on his own. When he wandered about the jungle, he was first elated at the prospect of doing whatever he fancied. He could eat all that he found without sharing it with any one, he could rest whenever he wanted, soar into the sky as he pleased, and so on.

A few days passed thus. Now the pigeon was feeling a little lonely. But still he continued on his own since he felt it was better that way. One morning he was searching for food, when he came across some delicious looking rice grains on the ground. Without thinking further, he swooped down to have a feast. No sooner had he done so, a large net fell on him. He had unwittingly walked into a hunter’s trap. He struggled to free himself but was unsuccessful. Soon he gave up his futile struggle and sorrowfully remembered his flock. If he had been with them, their leader would have first ascertained the safety of the surroundings before feasting on any grain on the

ground. Now it was too late, he thought. The hunter would surely return by nightfall. His life would be forfeited due to his foolishness.

As he was lamenting his fate, his flock happened to fly overhead. The leader saw the pigeon stuck under the net. He and the flock flew down for a closer look. He cautiously approached the trapped pigeon. He came to know how the pigeon had come to this sorry state. The foolish pigeon begged forgiveness for having behaved badly. He sorrowfully stated that no one could save him now since the chords of the net were too strong to be cut.

The wise pigeon leader looked at the young pigeon with compassion and said, "Dear friend, you may have flown away but you still belong to our flock. We will not desert you without trying our best to save you." At this the young pigeon said, "But what can you do? I do not want all of you trapped by the hunter. If you do not leave soon he may even shoot you down with his arrows. Please leave me as I am. I deserve this fate for disobeying you."

The wise pigeon thought a while and then formulated a plan. He asked his entire flock to firmly grasp the chords of the net around the edges and in the middle. Then, at his signal the pigeons flapped their wings together and tried to lift the net. Lo and behold, the hunter was greeted by the sight of his net flying up, and the lone pigeon flying out, free! Immediately the others left the net all together again and the net fell down to the ground. Marveling at the resourcefulness shown by the flock, the hunter decided to let them go without even shooting a single arrow. "Such unity cannot be found even among humans" said the hunter.

This may seem like just a story. But it is happening all the time! If you unite with your friends at play or school, almost anything can be achieved. But if you decide to disagree with everyone, it is hard to achieve anything.

Questions:

- Is the pigeon leader a wise one? Why?
- What qualities do you admire in the pigeon leader?
- What do you think can be achieved through unity in a nation?
- Is selfishness a good character? Can you think of how this is portrayed here?
- In a difficult situation, what one should do?
- Who knows the history of India? Was there a leader who united all of India to get rid of the British conquerors?
- Who knows the history of the U.S.? Was there a leader who united the thirteen colonies to remove the British?

Daily Slokas:

Ganesh Sloka:

*Vakra Tunda Mahaa Kaaya; Suryakoti Samaprabha
Nirvighnam Kurume Deva; Sarvakaaryeshu Sarvadaa*

Saraswati Stotra:

*Saraswathi Namasthubyam; Varade Kamaroopini
Vidyarambham Karishyami; Siddhir Bhavatume Sada*

Guru Stotra:

*Gurur Brahmaa Gurur Vishnu; Gurur Devo Maheshwarah
Guruh Saakshaat Parabrahma; Tasmai Shree Gurave Namah*

Vishun Stotra:

*Shuklambharadharam Vishnum Shashivarnam Chaturbhujam
Prasanna Vadanm Dhyayet Sarva Vignopa Shantaye*

Rama Mantra:

*Sri Rama Rama Rameti, Rame Rame Manorame
Sahasranama tattulyam, Rama Nama Varanane*

Durga Stotra:

*Om Sarva Mangala Maangalye Shive Sarvaartha Saadhike
Sharanye Triyambake Gauri, Naaraayani Namostute*

Hanuman Mantra:

*Manojavam Maarutatulyavegam; Jitendriyam Buddhimataam Varistham
Vaataatmajam Vaanarayoothamukhyam; Sriramadootam Sirasa Namami*

Matru Devo Bhava Sloka:

*Maathru Devo Bhava; Pitru Devo Bhava
Acharya Devo Bhava; Athidhi Devo Bhava*

Morning Sloka:

*Karaagre Vasate Lakshmi; Kara Madhye Saraswathi
Kara Moole Tu Govinda; Prabahate Kara Darshanam*

Bath Sloka:

*Gange cha Yamune chaiva Godavari Saraswati,
Narmade Sindhu Kaveri jalesmin sannidhim kuru*

Jumble Words – All words are from this lesson

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