

Human Values - Lesson 7

We have been learning about Human Values and its importance in our day to day life for the past few months. How many of you remember the five basic human values? Those are Truth, Love, Peace, Right Action, and Non-Violence. Are these lessons and stories making you nicer? Respect other people more now? Helping you to be more sensible and do nice things? Are you looking forward for more lessons and stories? OK. Let us revisit the Human Value, Love, in this lesson.

Love is the basis for all the values. Love is a spontaneous reaction. It is the power of love which causes one person to wish happiness for another and take pleasure in their welfare. Love is unconditional and positive regard for the good of another. It is giving and un-selfish. Love is essential for children to grow up healthy in mind and body.

Today's lesson is on -

Human Value: *Love*

Sub Value: *Sympathy*

Objective: *To develop the quality of compassion among the children*

Objective: *"The Highest Order of Love Is Sympathy"*

Story

Love is selflessness. Love is a great force that can bind and conquer even a cruel and wild animal. Love does not demand anything in return. Love is God and God is love. Compassion or sympathy, humanity and service are the main aspects of love. Among these, sympathy shown to others is the foremost. This is the story of king Vikramaditya who had shown sympathy even towards animals and was ready to sacrifice even his life for it.

Vikramaditya was one of the popular kings in India. Once, king Vikramaditya went around his kingdom in disguise to enquire about the welfare of his subjects. He traveled from one town to another. While on his journey he reached a forest. It was a

night and as the king made his way through the forest, he suddenly heard the call of a cow for help. Wanting to be of help, the king got down from his horse and went in the direction of the sound. In the darkness he could see that a cow was in distress, caught in a slough (muddy ground), and unable to come out of it. The king tried his best to pull the cow out of the pond with all his strength.

Meanwhile a lion, which had also heard the cry of the cow, reached the spot. Seeing the helpless cow, the lion raised its mane and roared. Fearing that the lion would attack the cow and kill it, Vikramaditya drew his sword and brandished it to scare away the lion. He soon realized that he would have to continue in this way for the whole night if he was to save the cow from the lion. Any help could be expected only at the daybreak.

Despite the hardship, the king resolved to help the poor animal. A parrot perched on a nearby tree, which was a witness to all, this, questioned the wisdom of the king thus: "Oh king! Your efforts may prove to be futile as death is certain for this cow. Even if you save it from the lion now, it is sure to sink deep in the swamp and die. Moreover other wild animals might also attack, as this is a dense forest. Your life is also in danger. Why can't you leave the cow and run away? Why are you trying to waste your time?"

King Vikramaditya who knew the language of the birds replied, "Oh parrot! Many thanks for your advice. Please do not teach me my Dharma (duty). Saving oneself from danger is but natural for all the creatures. But showing sympathy to others, especially to an animal is all the time a meritorious act. If one cannot show his love and sympathy at such critical junctures, he will lose all the merits acquired through penance. It is not my duty to think or judge at this moment whether I am benefitted by this act or not. I must save this cow, which is crying for help, by putting forth my best efforts even if I had to sacrifice my life. As a king, this is my duty now."

Having said this, the king kept the lion at bay for the whole night. As the day dawned, to the king's surprise, the lion transformed into Lord Indra! Lord Indra is the King of Heaven! The cow transformed into Mother Earth! The parrot became Dharmamurthy (Lord of Justice)! The king could not comprehend what had happened. So the Gods

came down and explained that they were testing him, to see how much love and compassion he really had. They all happily granted him various boons so he could get his wishes to come true, and then they vanished. He asked for a lot of good things, especially for the welfare of all those he ruled.

Sympathy is to be extended to all and love should pour forth from the core of one's heart. Then we are sure to receive blessings of the Lord.

Questions:

- **Is love a selfish action?**
- **Is it easy to be compassionate at all times?**
- **What were the tests given by the Devatas to King?**
- **What would be the reaction of any common person at this juncture?**
- **Would you like to show such sympathy to others?**
- **Who was the lion turned into?**
- **Is Vikramaditya a great king? Why?**
- **Do you think you ever have your love and compassion tested?**

Sloka for Lighting the Lamp

**Shubham Karothi Kalyanam
Arogyam Dhana Sampadam,
Shathru Budhi Vinashaya
Deepa Jyothir Namostute**

Meaning:

*Salutations and salutations, To the holy flame of the lamp,
Which bestows on me all that is good, Health as well as wealth,
And destroys all my enemies.*

Connect (1 to 46) and Color it

