

Human Values - Lesson 10

Let's discuss about Non-Violence, the fifth basic value, in today's class. Non-Violence means respect for all beings. It means not causing hurt or injury to others - being benevolent! What does benevolent mean?

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. Well balanced – who knows what this means?

Today's lesson is on -

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."

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.

Then one day one of the young male pigeons felt discontent. He did not see why he had to share all that he found with the 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 our 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 in vain 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 also 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?

Sloka for this week – Durga Stotra

Om Sarva Mangala Maangalye Shive Sarvaartha Saadhike

Sharanye Triyambake Gauri, Naaraayani Namostute

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PfKdcmpprVY>

Meaning:

O three eyed one! You are everything auspicious! I completely surrender to you!

Goddess Durga resides in us as physical strength, will power, determination, perseverance, courage and valor. She can be awakened by positive thinking, positive speaking, and positive actions. Chanting this sloka also awakens Durga, who is called by names like Naaraayani, Gauri, and Divine Mother.

- Why is Durga called “three eyed one”?
- Who can tell us what auspicious means?
- What does surrender mean?
- Is surrender like uniting?
- How does this relate to non-violence

Jumble Words – All words are from this lesson

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Connect the dots and color it

