

BOARD HIGH SCHOOLS

(TANJORE DISTRICT)

Fourth Form—(Short Term Lessons)

(Eng. Detail & Non-Detail—One page Questions)

By

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Anectodes from Gandhiji's Life.

Why did Gandhiji take to meat eating at first and give it up later on ?

A friend once told Gandhiji that meat eating would make man stronger and braver. Gandhiji was then very weak and was a coward also. He too wished to become strong and brave. Therefore on the advice of his friend, Gandhiji decided to eat meat. On an appointed day, a plate of meat was brought to him by his friend. At first Gandhiji did not relish it very much. During the whole of that night he felt that a live goat was bleating inside his stomach. But afterwards when his friend prepared him delicious meat dishes, Gandhiji liked them very much and ate to his full. This went on for about a year without the knowledge of his parents. But Gandhiji's conscience was always pricking him for having deceived his parents.

Gradually Gandhiji felt that he could not deceive his parents and gave up meat eating once for all.

2. Write the story of the confession of Gandhiji to his father.

One of Gandhiji's uncle was a smoker. Gandhiji and another young relative of his who happened to see him smoke also wanted to smoke. At first they picked up the small bits thrown by his uncle and began to smoke. Soon they found that these bits were no good. So they began to steal money from the servant's pockets in order to buy bidis. This went on for a few weeks. But they became tired of smoking in secret. At the same time, they did not have the courage to smoke in front of their elders. Moreover they did not like the idea of having to get permission from the elders for every thing they wished to do. Therefore they decided to commit suicide.

One day they gathered some datura seeds and went to the Kedarji Mandir. After offering prayers, they began to eat the seeds one by one. Scarcely had they eaten two or three seeds, their courage failed and they were afraid they would die. So atlast they decided to give up smoking.

Gandhiji made up his mind to confess everything to his father; but he was not bold enough to tell these things direct to his father. Therefore he wrote them in a letter and handed it over to his father, who was ill. After this Gandhiji felt greatly relieved and made up his mind not to repeat them again.

3. Why did Gandhiji go to England and what do you know of his life there?

Gandhiji went to England to study law and become a Barrister.

As soon as Gandhiji passed his Matriculation he joined college; but he took no interest in his studies. Friends advised Gandhiji's mother to send him to England to study law. But she was unwilling to send her son to England as he would be tempted to lead a bad life there. But on the advice of a Jain Monk, she let her son go, taking from him three vows. Gandhiji promised his mother that he would not touch meat, wine or woman while in England.

In England Gandhiji led as simple a life as possible. He kept the three promises made to his mother always in mind and was true to them. Though his friends advised Gandhiji to take meat, Gandhiji would not touch it. He took only boiled vegetables. Besides, he cooked his own food and spent only a shilling and three pence a day.

4. Why did Gandhiji go to South Africa and what were his experiences at the Magistrate's Court and at the railway station?

Gandhiji after returning from England was practising as a lawyer in Bombay. Once he was asked to take up a case for a firm in South Africa. Gandhiji at once accepted this offer and left for South Africa.

One day Gandhiji and Abdulla Sheth, the owner of the firm for which he was appearing, went to the Durban Law Court. Gandhiji, as usual, was wearing a turban.

The magistrate began to stare at Gandhiji and asked him to remove off the turban. But Gandhiji was unwilling to do so, for he felt that by doing so, he would

be bringing an insult on the Indians in South Africa. Therefore Gandhiji insisted on wearing the turban and he did so till the end of his stay in South Africa.

Gandhiji once left for Pretoria and a first class seat was booked for him. When Gandhiji reached Maritzburg, the Capital of Natal, at about 9 P.M another passenger, an European entered the compartment. He atonce asked Gandhiji to quit the place, but Gandhiji would not do so. He argued that since he was having a first class ticket he had the right to travel by first class. But the European would not listen to his arguments. A policeman was called and Gandhiji was forcibly removed from the carriage.

Gandhiji waited all night in the shivering cold. The next morning he sent a detailed telegram to the General Manager of the Railway and also informed Abdulla Sheth of the happenings. By the next train, Gandhiji was allowed to travel in a first class compartment.

5. How did the European boys treat Gandhiji in Durban.
or

"Gandhiji always forgave his enemies" Illustrate this.

Gandhiji after a brief halt in India once again returned to South Africa with his wife and children. Even before he got down from the ship, Gandhiji received a message from Mr. Escombe, a member of the Government saying that it would be better if Gandhiji landed at night fall, since the whites of South Africa were very angry with him.

Gandhiji and his friend Laughton who came to see him, did not like the idea of entering the city like a thief by night. Therefore it was decided that Gandhiji's wife and children should drive to Mr. Rustomji's house in a car while Gandhiji and Laughton could walk the distance.

Accordingly they left. Gandhiji had gone only a few yards, when he was recognised by the European boys. They first seized Laughton and then began to throw stones and rotten eggs at Gandhiji. Some of the boys also beat and kicked Gandhiji.

Gandhiji, unable to bear these hardships, fainted but luckily Mrs. Alexander, the wife of the Police Superintendent

passed that way. She recognised Gandhiji and at once forced her way through the crowd. Opening the umbrella she gave protection and shelter to Gandhiji from the deadly blows of the boys.

An Indian youth who happened to be there ran and told Mr. Alexander what had happened. He at once rushed help to Gandhiji who was taken to Rustomji's house. Soon, an angry crowd gathered around the house and demanded Gandhiji. But Mr. Alexander was too clever for them. He sent away Gandhiji disguised as a policeman.

The Natal Government was itself ashamed of the rude behaviour of its people and offered to punish anyone whom Gandhiji was able to point out. But Gandhiji did not like the idea of inflicting punishments even on his enemies and he forgave them. This noble behaviour of Gandhiji made the people of South Africa ashamed of their own conduct.

6. What was the condition of the Indians in South Africa and what did Gandhiji do to improve their conditions?

Even at the very outset Gandhiji found out that the Indians in South Africa were not treated properly by the Europeans. The Indians there were more or less treated as slaves. They were not allowed to move freely with the Europeans. Indians were not allowed to enter law courts with their turbans. Neither were they allowed to travel by first class in trains. Besides there were a number of laws against them, restricting their rights and freedom.

Gandhiji did not like the manner in which the Indians were treated. He felt that it was insult to them. Therefore he made up his mind to fight against the Europeans and their Government and improve the condition of the Indians there.

Gandhiji met all the leading Indians and formed a political party known as the Natal Indian Congress. He induced all Indians to become members of this party and pay a subscription of five shillings a month. He showed them, that by being united, they could fight well against the unjust laws of the African Government.

Moreover Gandhiji wrote a number of articles about the unjust way in which the Indians were being treated in the News-papers. Thus when Gandhiji left South Africa for India, the condition of the Indians there were far better than they were before.

Shepherd Boy's Song.

1. What is the central idea of the poem "Shepherd Boy's Song"?

John Benyan in his poem, "Shepherd Boy's Song" teaches us the value of a humble life and the virtues of a contented living. The poet speaks of both humility and contentment as preparing the way for a more happy and a blissful life.

The humble man is free from pride and jealousy. He has always as his friend God who bestows on him love and happiness. So also the contented man. He is also free from jealousy and does not crave to become richer and richer. Thus both the humble and the contented man are always happy and God gives them perfect joy in Heaven.

2. Why is the humble man always happy?

The humble man is not proud and is not jealous of those around him. He is always content with what little he has. Besides God is always his friend and guides him through all his troubles. Therefore the humble man is always happy.

3. Why does the author wish for contentment?

A person who is contented with what little he has is free from jealousy, pride and worries. Moreover God who is always the friend of the poor and the contented man gives him great happiness in Heaven also. Therefore the author wishes for contentment.

4. 'Here little and here after bliss
Is best from age to age'.

Explain these lines.

One who possesses little wealth in this world is able to enjoy complete happiness here as well as in Heaven. Rich

people have always cares and worries and they have always before them the problem of how to become richer and richer. But a poor man is free from cares and is also content with what he has. Moreover he does not forget God who helps him to enjoy bliss, which is perfect happiness in Heaven. This has been proved to be best during all times and in all ages.

Meanings:

Crave = wish

Bliss = Happiness in heaven

Contentment = Satisfaction

The Reverie of Poor Susan.

Susan is a country girl who has come to work in London.

Every day, when she comes to the corner of the Wood Street on her way to work, she hears the song of a bird in a cage. The music of the bird breaks the silence of the morning. It reminds her of her dear native home in the country. Instead of the Lothbury and Cheapside streets of London, she now sees her own native village in her imagination. The picture of her lonely cottage-home appears before her like a dove's nest amidst green pastures. The mountain, the trees, the mist and the flowing river of her native home, all appear one by one before her and she feels a thrill of joy. She actually feels that she is in her native home. The green pastures, where she used to walk gaily with her pail in her childhood, appear before her. She gets so much home sick. But soon, her dream of home passes away from her sight and she comes to her own. She feels sad they were not real.

This poem brings out clearly Susan's love of her home of birth.

The Blind Boy.

1. How does Cibber describe the Blind boy.

The little boy has been blind even from his birth and has never seen light and the wonderful things of nature. He

is not able to see the bright sun but is only able to feel its warmth. Since the boy is not able to see either the sunset or the sunrise feels that whenever he plays it is day for him and night, whenever he sleeps. His friends and the relatives around him are very sad because the boy is blind; but the boy is very patient and does not mourn his loss. He loves music and while he sings he feels he is a great King.

2. "With heavy sighs I often hear
You mourn they hapless woe".

Who mourns?

What do they mourn?

The boy is blind and people around him, his parents, his sisters and brothers and others feel unhappy because the boy is unable to enjoy life as they do by looking at things.

Meanings:

To mourn = To feel sad.

hapless = unlucky

Woe = துயரம்

LESSONS 13 & 14

I. Write the story of the highwayman, Jack:

Captain Jack was a notorious highwayman. He was in love with an innkeeper's daughter named Best. Another young man, employed in the inn, also loved her, but Best loved only the brave highwayman, Jack.

One full moon night, Jack came to Best stealthily and told her that he was going to rob a very wealthy man that night and he would bring all the gold to her in the morning. In case the king's men tried to capture him, he would surely come to her by moonlight the next day at all costs.

This was overheard by his rival who at once sent for the King's soldiers. Jack did not come that night. The inn was surrounded by soldiers the next night. The innkeeper and all the servants were ordered not to leave the inn. The

soldiers tied Best to the bedpost with her hands behind. They gagged her and bound to her side a loaded gun pointing to her chin. They did all this so that their presence might be kept a secret from Jack.

But poor Best was mad to save her lover Jack. She resolved to die for him. She was anxiously looking for his arrival through the window. Meanwhile she loosened the ropes and freed her fingers. Her fingers were now ready on the trigger to press it at the sight of her lover. The shot would be a warning to him of the danger so that he could escape. Just at midnight when all the soldiers were ready with their guns, Jack appeared a mile off. At once Best pressed the trigger and the shot went through her head. Thus at the cost of her life, she warned her lover. Jack at once turned his horse and galloped off and escaped capture.

The next day afternoon, Jack came to know of Best's sad fate. He could not bear to survive his lover. So he rushed to the inn desperately and was at once shot dead by the soldiers.

Both the lovers were buried together in one and the same grave. They were indeed true lovers.

LESSONS 15 & 16

II. Describe Tara's visit to the People's Park. Or Describe the Madras Zoo

The Madras Zoo is in 'people's park'. The admission ticket costs only four annas each.

There are in the Madras Zoo lions, tigers, leopards, bears and hyalnas. They are all kept in strong cages. In walled enclosures there are two camels, a giraffe and a rhinoceros. Camels and elephants are led round the Zoo by their keepers. A ride on the elephant is a great pleasure to the children and Tara had a pleasure ride on it. In wired enclosures are many kinds of deer. On an island in the Park are to be seen parrots of beautiful colours, pigeons, ducks, geese, and a solitary flamings and also the charming pheasant. There

are also monkeys and people are amused at the tricks of these mischievous animals.

In a pond in the Zoo are to be seen a few crocodiles. One can go round the pond in a boat. There are many beautiful lotus flowers on the lake. There is a canteen in the Zoo and visitors take light refreshments and coffee or tea there. The Madras Zoo is a feast to the eyes and we can see there many kinds of animals and birds.

The animals which Tara missed in the Zoo were the black panther, pythons, snakes and other such animals. How the animals are fed every day is interesting to note.

Lions get thirty pounds of raw meat every day and lionesses get only twenty-five. The rhinoceros is given a hundred pounds of grass every day. The giraffe eats in a high table. Its forelegs are too long to eat anything placed on the ground unless it spreads its forelegs far apart. That is why the animal eats the juicy leaves on the branches of trees. Mohan wrote in reply to Tara about the feeding habits of these animals.

LESSONS 17, 18, 19 & 20

III. How was king Robert of Sicily humbled and how was he finally restored?

King Robert of Sicily became haughty and proud that he was the greatest king on earth. One evening he went to church not to pray there, but to show what a great person he was. While the monks were singing, a particular line drew his attention. He at once called a monk to translate it from Latin. The words meant "He has overthrown the mighty and has raised up the humble." He felt offended and ordered him not to sing the line.

It was just getting dark. The music was so sweet that he fell asleep. When he awoke, he found himself shut up in the church. It was dark every where. He tapped, knocked and kicked violently at the door. The sexton heard the noise and shout of the king and opened the door. He thought that it was a mad man because the king looked so.

He rushed to the palace. People on the way and the palace guards, all took him for some mad man. He entered the hall and saw a new king there. He did not know that it was an angel sent by God to humble his pride. The courtiers and every one could not recognize him because the angel sitting on the throne looked exactly like their king. At the command of the new king, the servants dressed him in a jester's uniform. He was given a monkey to be his companion.

He was made to eat the remnants left on the king's table. He had to sleep in dark cold rooms. Thus he suffered for months. Still he did not feel repentant.

Months passed, and it was Easter time. The king of Sicily was invited by the Pope to spend Easter with him in Rome. So the new king started for Rome and the jester also with the king. The Pope also could not recognise him, and so his last hope also failed.

During Easter, he stood with the crowd of people listening to the Church prayer. The same line was sung in the church. When he heard the line, he was thrilled because he now understood the meaning. He at once fell on his knees and repented for his foolish pride. He met a priest in the church who told him that it was all God's plan to cure him.

Now the court jester was a different man. He became quite humble, good and polite to one and all. He told the angel-king that he preferred to lead the life of a monk. The new king revealed his identity to him. The angel restored the repentant king to his former state and vanished.

King Robert became pious and ruled his people wisely for a number of years.

