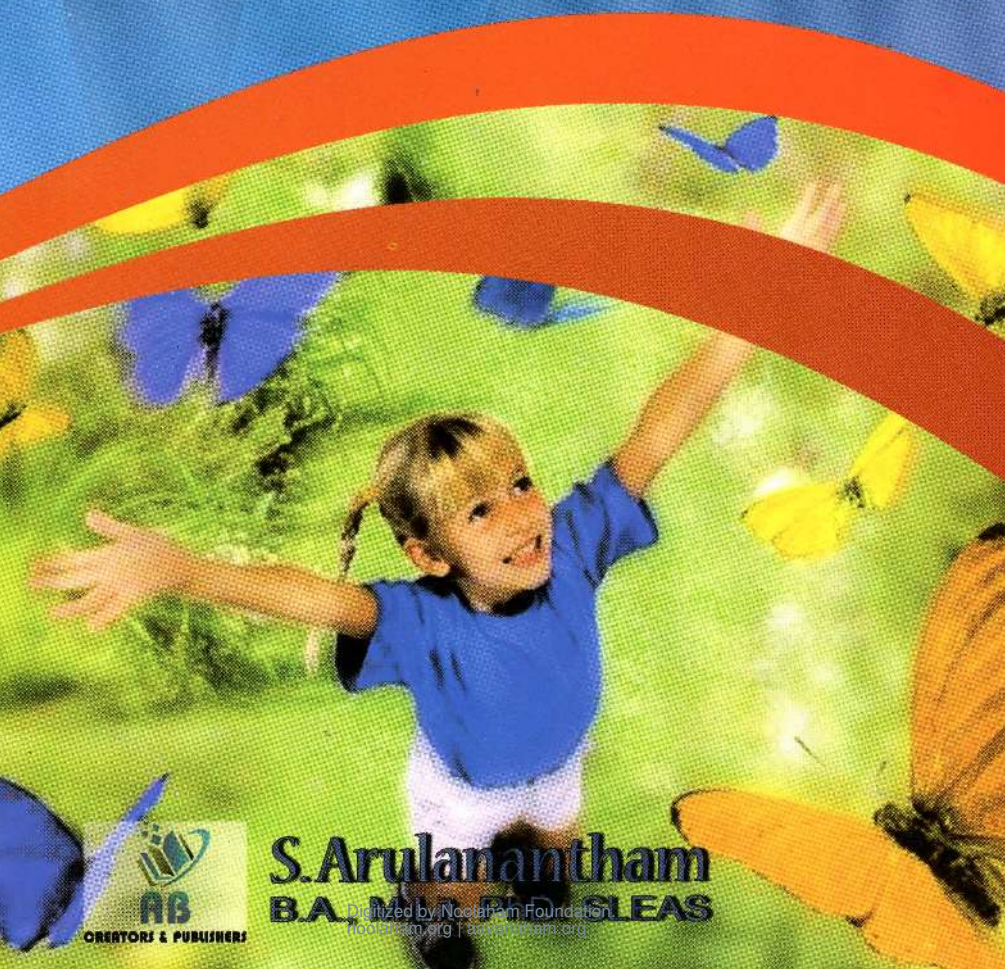


# Let's Read and *Write* Essays

Grade 7 - 9



**S. Arulanantham**  
**B.A. M.A. M.D. SLEAS**

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*S. Arulanantham*

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# Preface

The object of this little book is to provide few model essays to our students. The careful study of few model essays will give them more insight into the art of essay - writing. Example is better than precept and the best way to teach a student the art of essay and letter - writing is to show how it is done.

We have released an essay book for little children. Many students and teachers welcomed the effort and appreciated the work. This book is outcome of the previous one. This piece of work is an attempt to help the rural students to read and express common ideas in English. The topics chosen and the ideas expressed are common and well within the grasp of even the backward student.

Language is learnt by imitation. And a good way of learning how to arrange words and sentences is by learning of good English by heart.

It is our hope that this piece of work would finally prop up their ability to tackle any essay type of questions at school and public examinations. I take this opportunity to thank the Manager K. Sathees of Lanka Book Depot, Colombo - 12. for encouraging me to write simple essays to our little children

With kind regards.

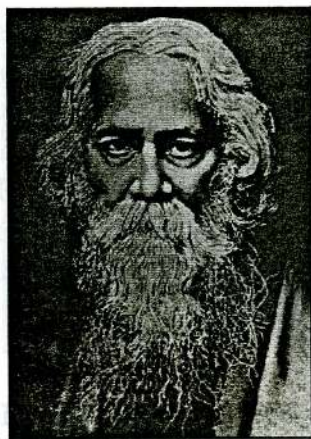
S.Arulanantham

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# 1. My favorite Author

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My favorite author is Rabindranath Tagore. Rabindranath Tagore's poetry and short stories appeal to my heart more than anything else. His 'Gitanjali' is a famous book of songs, for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature. Truly speaking, I do not fully understand the inner meaning of all those beautiful songs. But I can, however, sing a few of them.

Tagore's short stories deeply attracted my mind. They are simple, and they vividly portray the known characters and simple plots. We study some of Tagore's poems and stories which are included in our text book.

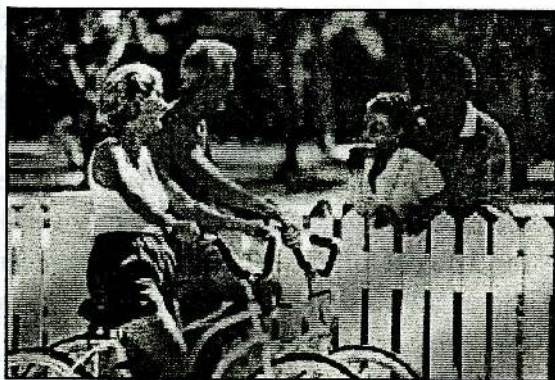
As a reader, I am proud of Tagore, a world poet of the twentieth century, whose books have been adored and translated into many languages of the world.

Tagore's birthday is celebrated every year all over the country with great love and reverence. Tagore is known not only as a poet, but also as a dramatist, painter, actor, singer, philosopher, educationist and humanist.

Tagore was a great patriot who actively supported the Swadeshi Movement. He wrote the Indian national songs. He boycotted foreign goods. He encouraged to open shops for selling Indian goods. He returned the Knighthood conferred upon him as a special honour by the British Crown. This shows the boldness of his character and great sense of nationalism.



## 2. My Neighbour



Blessed are those who have good neighbours, I am lucky to have Mr. Silva as my next door neighbour. He is every inch a gentleman. He is very helpful to all.

Mr. Silva is a wealthy businessman. He is very intelligent. He has two pet dogs. In spite of being rich he is not arrogant. He speaks to everyone and is generous and kind.

Mr. Silva has four children—two sons and two daughters. The eldest son helps him in the business. The second son is of my age and studies in a public school. His daughters are students of class nine and seven.

All the members of his family are good. His father is very kind and religious. His children are good natured and have good manners. They are good at studies too.

We mix freely with them. Sometimes Mr. Silva gives us a lift in his car. We exchange sweets and presents with them on festivals.

Mr. Silva and the members of his family are very cooperative and helpful. They have forged a kind of family feeling among the neighbours.





### 3. A Football Match

---



Today games have become an important part of our lives. They promote health and a good healthy body has a sound mind.

Last Sunday my father took me to see a football match. It was played at Colombo Sugathadasa stadium.

We reached the Stadium by our car. We parked the car in parking and bought two tickets and then entered the Stadium.

The match was between Colombo football team and a visiting Kandy team. The Stadium was full to capacity. Colombo team captain won the toss. It proved be an exciting match.

The Kandian team's players started to kick the ball hard. Colombo's team players put up a strong defense. Before interval they scored an equalizer. In the beginning the match was slow, but later it became very interesting.

The match began again after the interval. Both the teams tried hard but could not score a goal. Both teams are strong. The match ended in a draw.



## 4. A Good Friend

---



A true friend is a gift from God. Everyone has some friends. I also have many friends. But Nemeshika is my best friend. She is my class mate. Her father is a doctor.

Her mother is a teacher. She is an obedient girl. She is very good in studies. All the teachers like her.

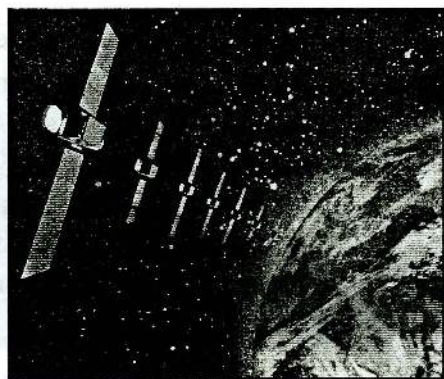
She helps the students who are weak in studies. She is very punctual. She never comes late to school.

She is very good in sports. She is tall and healthy. She is the captain of our basketball team. She is kind, gentle and courteous. She respects all her elders. She never gets angry. She hates no body. I feel very happy in her company. I am proud of my friend.



## 5. Wonders of Science

---



This is an age of science. Science has completely changed the entire world. Science has made our life more comfortable and trouble free. Science is useful to us. The blessings of Science are too many to count. Science has conquered time and distance. Electricity is another wonderful gift of science.

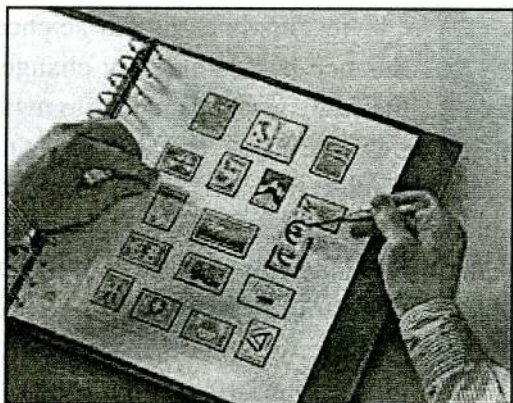
Electricity, one of its off shoots, is used in washing clothes, cooking food and in entertaining us. Its uses are unlimited. It lights our houses, shops, showrooms and streets. It runs our air-conditioners and air coolers. It keeps us warm in winter and cool in summer.

Mobile, television, radio, aeroplane etc. are some of these. It has increased our speed of work and has given us fast moving means of transport. Travelling is now so safe and fast. We have cars, buses, metro-rails, trains, ships and aeroplanes. Man can walk and talk any corner of the world.

In the fields of education, entertainment and agriculture has proved a great blessing. The worst fact of science is seen in the wars. Science is a boon and is in the service of man if used in the right manner.



## 6. My Hobby



A hobby is a favourable activity. One pursues in one's spare time for pleasure and recreation. Usually a hobby depends upon a person's interest. People are busy in earning money or solving their problems.

They want to change their golden moments of their life into money. But it is the misuse of time. Almost all the people get leisure time but they do not know how to utilise it. A hobby removes the dullness of man. It refreshes the mind. People may choose gardening, stamp-collecting, photography, painting or playing games as their hobby.

My hobby is stamp-collecting. I was drawn to this hobby when I was just six years old. My aunt Swarna gave me an album of stamps on my birthday. I felt very thrilled to see the beautiful stamps pasted in it. Whenever I had spare time, I gazed at them and that gave me endless joy. I began to request everyone to send me some novel stamps.

My hobby has helped me to take great interest in history and geography. This stamp-collecting hobby refreshes my mind. It gives me joy and happiness. We make new friends. We develop good qualities. This is how I spent my recreation and leisure.



## 7. My Birth Day

---



Last year I celebrated my birthday exactly the way I wanted to. My parents had told me that I could ask them for anything on my birthday and I asked them to arrange a grand party for my friends.

My mother is my best friend. She helped me to make invitation cards and to fill them up with names. Next she took me to the market. We bought balloons and streamers, masks and caps etc. to decorate the house with. We ordered the cake and bought wrapping paper along with the return presents.

My mother spent the whole day in the kitchen cooking for all my friends. The cake arrived in the evening and soon my friends started pouring in.

My father arranged some games for them and he became the referee for all our games. He arranged musical chairs, passing the parcel, follow the leader, dumb charades etc and all the children enjoyed themselves.

We had our tea after I cut the cake. The cake was a beautiful house with colourful icing and big chunks of chocolate.

I was drowned in gifts. Once my friends left and I went to bed with the satisfaction of having enjoyed the best birth day party of my life.



## 8. A scene out the Examinationhall

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A scene out the examination hall is full of thrill and excitement. There is a lot of hustle and bustle. Fear of examination is visible on the faces of students.

Students seem to be very busy. Some revise important questions and others go to intelligent students for help and guidance. Soon the bell rings. They enter the Examination hall. They occupy their seats and pray to God for an easy paper.

Examination hall is a place of joy for a few and an object of fear for many. On the whole the condition of the students outside the examination hall can better be imagined than described.



## 9. The Postman



A postman is a useful public servant. He is welcome everywhere because he brings letters from friends and relatives. He delivers parcels and money orders, etc. Without the services of a postman, life would be paralysed to a great extent.

A postman can be seen here and there delivering the mail to the addresses. He wears khaki uniform. He can be seen riding a bicycle. He carries the letters in his bag. His work is full of difficulties. He arranges the letters in order. He goes from door to door to distribute the letter and money-orders. He brings the good and bad news from the relatives. The duty of the postman is to deliver the letter, parcels, money orders etc.

His duties are very hard. He has to work under scorching sun and pouring rains. His job is very tough. He reaches for his duty at right time. He is a useful member of our society. He has to keep smiling against all odds. We should respect him for his hard labour.

With the coming up of courier services, e-mail system, the postmen are losing their charm. People have started sending their mails through computers. In the present circumstances, the future of postman is not bright.



# 10 Summer Vacation

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Summer vacation is the best part of the year. A student can have a couple of weeks entirely to himself. He is not bothered about books and examinations. He can do whatever he likes. He can go wherever he pleases. He

can build his health. He can visit his relations. If he can afford, he can go to the hills.

Our school closed on 06th April and I decided to pass my summer vacation at Nuwareliya. As my parents were busy and could not accompany me, I decided to go with my friends. Big preparations were to be made before leaving Trincomalee. But it was worthwhile to escape the blazing heat of Trincomalee.

Our first headache was home-work. Shall we do it here or in Nuwareliya or not do it at all? After considering the pros and cons, we decided to distribute the whole work into seven parts and do it once a week. So we set apart one day a week for the school work.

I, along with three of my friends and their families, took the udaratamenicke for Nuwareliya. The train went very slowly. It inched its way up the high hills. It went so slow that one could get down or get in anywhere he liked. The railway track was zigzag. We could always see the track we had covered and the track that was before us. We went up and up in a whirl.



The train reached Nuwareliya in the evening. We went to our place. Day by day, we enjoyed the summer vacation to our fill. It was a great picnic for two months. It was really an enjoyable opportunity.

We did not notice the quick passing of time. We had no worry, no school work, no fear of being in time for school, no fear of the teacher's mace, and no fear of weekly tests. We were care-free. In Nuwareliya we were so happy that after a morning or evening walk, home-coming was painful. We used to climb hills, go down in valleys, meet villagers and see many beautiful sights.

The tall trees on the hills and the whirring sound which the quickly passing air created made us love nature and forget all about the plains.

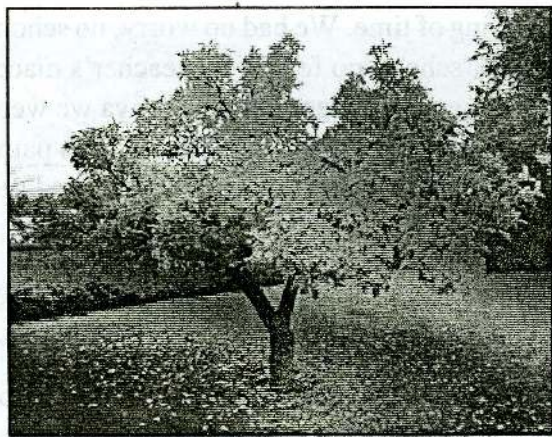
It was with a heavy heart that we had to leave Nuweareliya at the end of our vacation. The time passed so quickly that we never noticed its passage.

The first day in school after the vacation was a cheerless day. Neither the boys nor the teachers were serious about school work. Everybody was busy relating his experience of the summer vacation.



# 11. Autobiography of a Tree

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I am an old mahogany tree. I wasn't planted by anyone, with the seed from my neighbour I just happened to grow all by myself.

I take a lot of credit for the fame that has been enjoyed by the place where we grow.

Had I not been here along with my companions, this place would have been as bare as a desert.

However, now the time has come when I have a great fear in my heart. We have seen many of us being cut down by the People who live here and also by builders who come from the big cities.

I do know that I will not die a natural death. I have to prepare myself for the pain that I have to suffer at the hands of those who chop us down. The people cut down the trunk and make timber to use to building purposes. They take the branches for firewood

We provide oxygen, rain and preventing soil erosion. We protect the people from heat and give cool shade. We give shelter to all living things. We take our food from mother earth. The earth and the sun light supply our food. We as human being have lives. The birds feed our fruits. We never do harm to any living things on earth. But still the people cut down us and do harm to the earth.

Each morning I pray to god had asked him to grant these humans with some sense. I pray that they may let us live and make this earth a healthier and more beautiful space for us and them to live in.

## 12. Autobiography of a Car

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I am an old Maruti car. I was assembled by many mechanics and engineers. My various parts came from various factories. I run on petrol.

I was very beautiful when I was new. I was bought by Mr. Sunil who is a business man with a shop on the main street. Mr. Sunil was very proud of me. He used to clean me everyday brushing, waxing and washing me himself.

After a year he sold me as he was going abroad. My new master was not kind. He ill-treated me. He was a rash and reckless driver. I got many bruises and scratches. Consequently my appearance was spoiled and I began to look old and ugly.

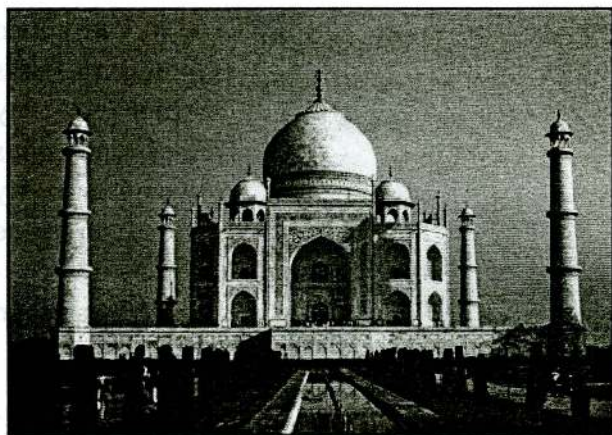
When my new master was at my steering wheel, he only thought of speed. He was never considerate to me. He caused me to make much noise.

One day he was drunk, drove me very fast and rashly. Suddenly we met an accident on a sharp turn. My master was seriously wounded. He had multiple fractures.

I was crushed badly. My injuries were beyond repair. I was towed and parked in the rear of the bungalow. I stand here in rain and sun. I am now so sad, old and rusty. I wish for my early death.



## 13. Taj Mahal



The Taj Mahal is a historical monument. It is situated on the bank of Yamuna river in Agra. It is a beautiful tomb of Mumtaz Mahal.

Taj Mahal is called the wonder of the world. It was made

by Emperor Shahjahan in the loving memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal.

It is made of pure white marble of Makrana. Thousands of visitors come to see this wonderful building of Love in Agra every year. Thousands of artists, artisans and workers worked for twenty years to complete it. About 20 crores of rupees were spent on it. The beauty of the Taj smiles in the silvery night of the full moon.

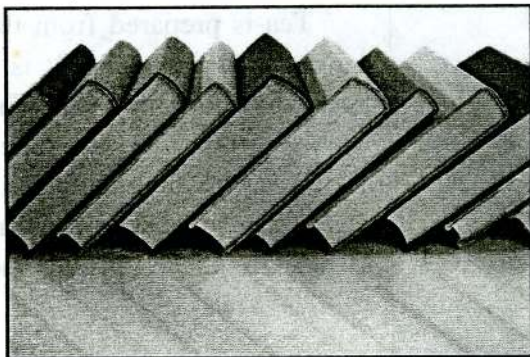
The walls of the Taj Mahal are decorated and carved with gemstones of different colours. The couplets from Quran are written on the walls. The Taj is situated on a high raised platform. The graves of the King and the Queen are under the dome in a dark chamber. There are four minarets at the four corners of the platform. Everyone praises Taj for its beauty and art.

The Taj can be viewed in the full moon nights to see an admirable view fully. The real graves are under the dummy graves.



## 14. Why I love Books

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I have a little library of my own at home. Now I have fairy tales, fun books, and books on geography, science, history and literature - all of which are presented in the form of a story.

I love my books. Whenever I have a holiday, I pick

up any book from the shelf and read it.

I get so engrossed in the book that I often forget to eat. My mother has to yell at me to have my lunch.

I often borrow books from my friends and my school library. Books hold a great charm for me. Some of my friends too have started enjoying reading books as much as I do.

Most of my relatives and friends know that the best birthday gift that they can give me is books and with their generosity I have over a hundred books in my personal library now.



## 15. Tea for Kids



Tea is prepared from the leaves of a tea plant. It is a popular drink in the world. The plant grows as bushes. They grow on high sloping lands in India, China, Japan and Sri Lanka. They need sunshine and rain to grow.

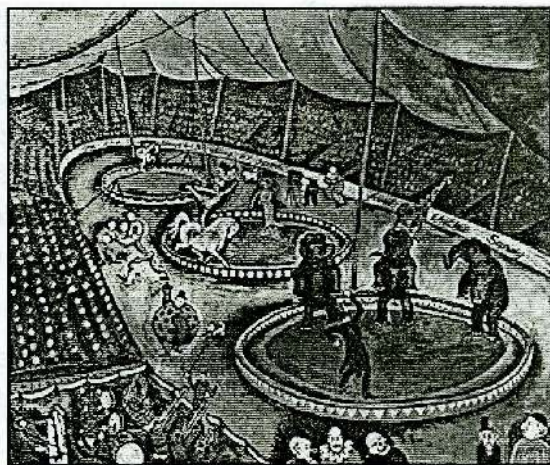
The tea plants are sown in rows with a gap of four to six feet from one another. They grow about five or six feet tall. The leaves are one or two inches long, green in colour, and oval in shapes. The leaves make green, black tea.

Leaves are plucked three or four times a year. Plucking of leaves are done mainly by women. They pluck two leaves and a bud from a branch of a tea plant. After plucking, the leaves are exposed to the sun and air for some hours, and then heated over charcoal fire. Then they are rolled and curled in the machine.

After roasting, the leaves become dry, brittle and fit for consumption. They are then packed in air tight wooden chests bier with lead foil and dispatched to the market for sale. In Sri Lanka, there are many tea estates in the upcountry. Sri Lankan tea is famous in the world market. It is an important export industry in Sri Lanka. In India there are many tea estates in Assam and Darjeeling. Darjeeling tea is world famous for its fine flavour and taste.



## 16. A visit to the Circus



I like the circus show very much. Last Month the Circus company from China came to Sri Lanka. They perform tricks that attract everybody and people like to visit the circus again and again. It brings actors, acrobats and performers from various parts of China.

We reached the circus gate at 4.00 pm and purchased our tickets for the entrance. We sat down comfortably with our packets of chips and pop-corn, when all of a sudden we heard the loud trumpeting of an elephant.

An acrobat sat on the elephant's back. She suddenly began to perform on his back; she would turn around and sometimes stand on her head or on one hand. The horse was trotting around on the ring.

The jokers cheered us all up a lot. They were dressed in colourful clothes and their faces were painted with beautiful colours which made them look very funny.

The gymnasts performed for an hour. The bodies of these gymnasts are very supple and it is amazing to see them moving their body as through it were rubber.

There are lions that were so tame that even I felt like going and giving them a pat on their back. They were gentle and their trainer had full control over them.



## 17. The Street Beggar



Beggars are very common. They can be seen everywhere. They are found in the bus stops, market places, historical places, railway platforms, road sides parks and even in running buses.

Begging is really a curse.

Begging has become a profession. Some beggars are healthy and do not deserve our sympathy. But some beggars are lame, cripple or blind. They deserve our sympathy. Some beggars sing songs and play on musical instruments.

A beggar is a poor man. He goes about begging for food, clothes and money. There are many beggars who are disabled and handicapped. We should take pity on them. They really deserve our help and charity. We should help a beggar if he is blind, lame or handicapped.

Many street beggars are thieves too. Therefore, they do not want to change their profession. They are lazy people. They do not want to work. We should be aware of such type of beggars.

We should help only those beggars who are disabled and cannot earn their livelihood by doing any kind of work.

Beggars are a nuisance. They are clever and cheat the public. Sometimes they steal, make places dirty and trouble the people by persistent begging. They should be discouraged. They spoil the image of our country.





## 18. Self-Help for Kids

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There is a saying: “God helps those who help themselves.” Self-help is the best help. It is a heroic virtue. It gives us the spirit of self confidence and strength of mind. God has given us physical strength and intelligence enough to live a healthy life. So we should properly use these two important qualities in order to build up our life. Life itself has to be adequately planned beforehand.

Energy and strength have to be drawn to give it a proper shape. Strength is power in inherent elements found in a person. No one has to utilise it properly by helping oneself.

No outside help can help one in a better way than one’s own help. A person has to be alert, diligent thoughtful and disciplined enough to work out a successful plan of his own life. And the success is his.

It is also said, “Failures are the pillars of success” that means, experiences gained through repeated failures teach a faithful aspirant the way to success. So the person should not feel dispirited at his failures.

He should try again and again to reach his goal. His determination and perseverance will lead him to his goal today or tomorrow. And it is possible only by the spirit of self-help. Self-help makes a person perfect, ideal and confident in his life.



# 19. Street Hawkers



Street hawkers are found in almost every corner of the city lanes. They are common feature of our life. They move from place to place selling their goods.

The biggest danger of eating the food that street hawkers sell is in the fact that the constant exposure to the heat and dust of the road side makes this food unhygienic to eat.

It is sad that the street hawkers are not provided any space by the government to sell their food at.

If they had a covered area where they served their food, the cleanliness of their food items could be maintained.

A hawker saves us a lot of trouble. He sells things that we need at our door-steps.

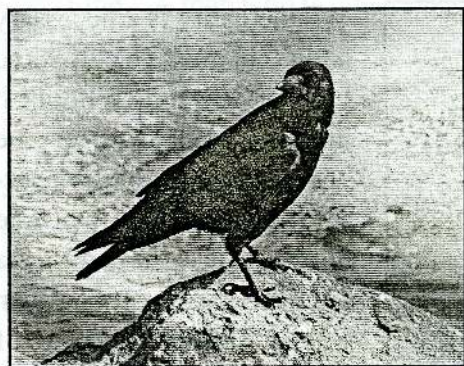
Sometimes a hawker rings his bell to announce his arrival.

Food sold by hawkers is often tasty and eating there saves time too. The food they sell is generally tasty. But never buy eatables from a dirty hawker.

A hawker has to work hard. He has to go on walking. We miss them when we do not hear their calls.



## 20. The Crow



The crow is a very useful bird. They can be seen here, there and everywhere. It is a big bird. Its colour is black. It has a long, black strong beak and a tail. It caws loudly. Crows live on trees and in big groups.

It is really a great friend of man. It keeps the environment

clean. It eats up and removes so many dirty things. A crow is a natural cleaner.

It is a clever bird and can steal our eatables, It is afraid of men and animals, especially dogs.

Bread, butter milk, eggs, flesh, sweets, dirt, is its food. Thus, a crow is a very common bird.

Some people do not like it; others think it to be lucky. I do not hate it.



# 21. Punctuality

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Punctuality is a necessary habit that must be cultivated by every person. Without it nothing could ever be brought to a conclusion, everything would be in a state of chaos. It is the mark of a civilized society. It has been rightly called 'the soul of business'.

In ordinary living there can be some tolerance of unpunctuality. But it is hard for energetic, quick-minded people to waste time, so they

are often tempted to finish a job before setting out to keep an appointment. If no accidents occur on the way, like punctured tires, diversion of traffic etc. they will be on time. To be on time is a great quality which is unfortunately possessed by a very few.

In our daily life, we have to attend to various types of business. This brings us in contact with other people. If we are late, this may cause annoyance and worry to them. Punctuality is the key to get success in life. Without it our life may be a great failure. Hence, we must be punctual to taste the wonderful achievements of life.

It is said that time is money of time once gone never returns. Hence, make the best effort of time at your disposal to be punctual. Sometimes people lose golden opportunity in life due to being late by a few minutes. If you are catching a train, it is always better to be comfortably early than even a fraction of a minute too late early means a little before the real time. live in a big city, we have to consider the route problem to reach the destination.

It is not easy thing to be punctual. It requires a man all the energy to regulate his life, if he wants to be punctual in every business. Unpunctuality invites trouble and worry. It is said, "A stitch in time saves nine." A man who is punctual and keeps his appointment is sure to be held in high esteem by others. Everyone banks on him because he keeps his words.

Hence there is no alternative of this quality and it must be nourished by every human being right from the very beginning. Once George Washionton told his secretary, "Sir, either you must get a new watch or I must get a new secretary" The example clearly shows the value of punctuality.

Punctuality is necessary in a civilised and cultured world because it is the base of its all round development.



## 22. The Winter Season



Among the main seasons of Sri Lanka, winter season has its own importance and beauty. It begins in November and lasts till February with the coldest months being December and January.

Winter appears like a saviour. It saves us from the scorching sun and exhausting environment of the summer followed by the filthy and muddy rainy season. This season enhances our capacity to do more and more. We never feel tired and exhausted. Rather we feel more enthusiasm, energy, taste and vigour in life.

It is a season that makes us hale and hearty as we get ample of green vegetables, colourful flowers and nutritional fruits. We ask ourselves in the bright sun. The sun which seems to trouble during summer becomes so pleasant during winter.



The farmers too are very happy. They work in the fields in the open sun. Had there been no winter, we would have suffered a Jot at the hands of burning summer or flowing rainy water.

Thus, the winter gives us a power to perceive, tolerance to suffer

and a hope to mend our ways. We can treasure a lot to bear the treacherous ways of other seasons though all the seasons Eire great in themselves for being gifts of nature, but winter is the greatest of all of them for its lively characters.

Winter days are full of activities. There is hustle and bustle everywhere. Children play various games in the pleasant sun. But the evenings are dull and boring. People get into their rooms closing all the doors and windows.

No noise from outside world is heard, traffics are hardly seen on the roads. It seems for some time that life has become stagnant. But at the same time, sitting around the fire with all the family members and gossiping have its own charm. It is really a happy time.

Winter season brings pleasure for the rich people because they have sufficient warm clothes to put on. Even when chilly winds blow, they feel no problem. For that time they have room-heaters and blowers, etc. to keep their room warm and cosy. But for the poor people, winter is a curse. As they belong to a class of have-nots, therefore they don't afford to buy woolen clothes in order to fight with the cold.

Sometimes when it is very cold, the very survival becomes difficult for them. They can't cope up with biting cold in rags and as a result they die. Thus winter brings bitter and painful days for them. Hence, our poor class never welcomes this season. They like only summer, even though it is very hot.

In nutshell we can say that winter is a pleasant time for the rich but a hard one for the poor. Hence, it is both good and bad.



## 23. The Flood

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Rains bring relief to the people in many ways. But excessive and continuous rains cause unnecessary accumulation of water here and there. The ponds, canals and rivers overflow. High level water

washes away the crops, plants, cattle, men and their huts, bringing tremendous suffering to the people. The fields, roads and villages are covered with stagnant water. It is flood. It is a natural calamity.

Flood is a curse to the people. The villagers struggle to find safe shelter on house-tops or tree-tops. The children and old folk become helpless. Flood takes many human lives. The cattle die, and their corpses spread obnoxious smell and pollution. People lose their food grains, clothes and household articles in the flood.

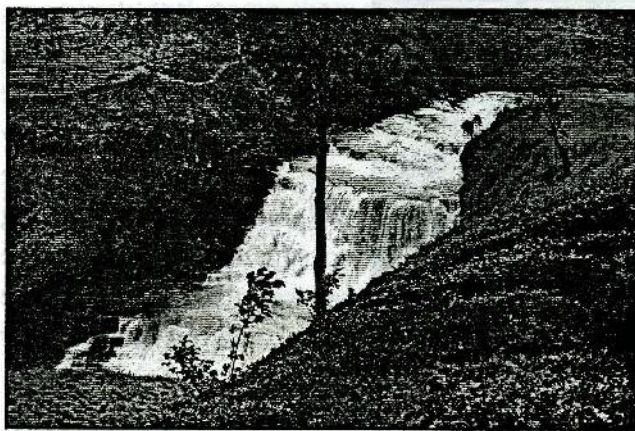
It may take a long time to bring relief goods to the flood affected area. By that time various calamities may occur to the victims of flood. But generally the government arranges for relief by way of foodstuff, clothes and monetary help to the victims. Rescue teams arrive from towns with boats, etc. Medicine and food are dropped from helicopters on the high land. The marooned people are rescued and shifted to safe shelters.

After the flood, the water moves away. Then the land becomes barren, and good crops cannot grow. That brings further distress to the people.





## 24. Autobiography of a River



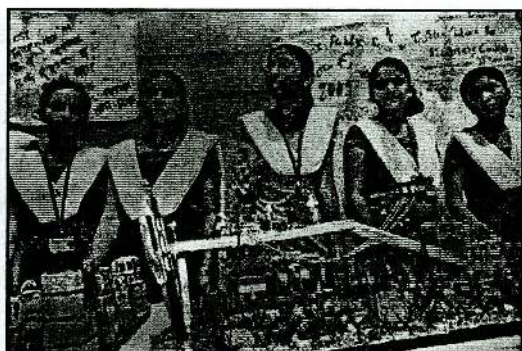
My name is Mahavale ganga. There are many fables about my birth. And how I was born is a wonderful thing. I come down from the Mountains and flow into the plains.

I am a very useful river in that part of the country. Many big cities are situated on my banks. Their Prosperity is entirely due to me. Also, there are many holy places on my banks. Pilgrims from all over Sri Lanka come to me; they take bath in my holy waters. They thus feel that they have washed off all their sins. The fertility of the plains of Sri Lanka is also due to me. These plains are very thickly populated because I am there to give people good crops and prosperity. I flow from Horton plains and after which I snake my way through the plains and finally meet the Bay of Kottiyar. From the Horton to the Bay of Kottiyar, my life is one of importance and usefulness.

But sometimes, I go mad and play havoc. When there is heavy rain or when the snow melts on the Pedruthalakala peaks, I bring floods and cause a great loss of life and wealth. But then I try to compensate for the losses in the following years. I am satisfied with my life that I am a holy and useful river.



## 25 To an Exhibition



the ticket windows.

Our first impression on entering the grounds was that the whole vast area looked like a veritable fairyland. Every nook and corner of the exhibition had artistic and beautiful designs. At the gate there was a gigantic statue of Shigiria Fortress. The gate was ornamental and constructed beautifully. The vast space was decorated in bright and gay colours and lit up with countless lights: There was a milling crowd inside with a great hustle and bustle. People in their best holiday clothes slowly crept through the gate and came to the grounds.

There were pavilions for different districts of Sri Lanka. They showed all that was best in them such as handicrafts, specimens of art, photos of important places, animals and so on. The exhibits in the pavilions were all novel and attractive. We found the display of modern fighting weapons. There were also private stalls displaying a wide variety of goods.

These stalls were like miniature shops. They had for show or for sale such goods as cloth, pottery, crockery, glassware, chinaware, agricultural implements, musical instruments, and numerous articles for everyday use.

While the pavilions and stalls made a very interesting sight, what attracted us most was the Children's Corner. It was jammed with small

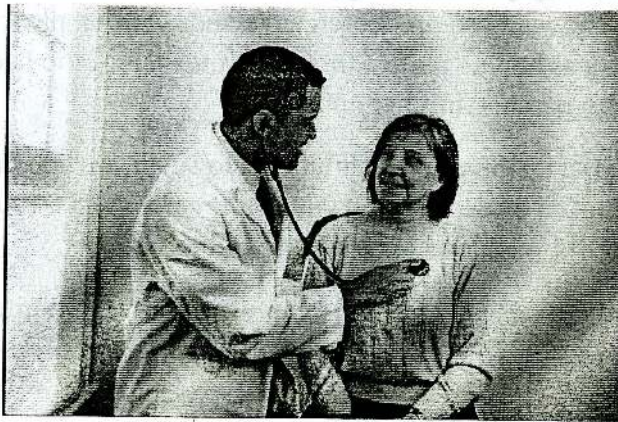
children, teenagers and even adults. There were plenty of entertainment in it. It had an amusement park, toy-railway, merry-go-round, and giant-wheel with tumbling boxes, joy-ride having painted wooden horses, cinema-show, and magic-show and so on. Ice-cream stands were in plenty in the area. Everybody was having a most thrilling time there. I too had my share of fun with my parents, brother and sister.

We felt like buying up the whole exhibition. However, we bought a few things, such as stuffed birds, woodcarvings, and sarees and so on. Time flew like it never did while we were at the exhibition.

Soon it was nearly midnight. So we left the exhibition and went home, cheerful and happy.



## 26 If I were a Doctor



A person who is ill and out of sorts, gives a doctor the status of God on earth. Isn't this status one to proud of? A status to be cherished isn't it? The very presence of a doctor instills immense confidence

in a patient, an enviable position of a man.

After understanding the high and mighty position of a doctor as it is expected to be, let us analyse whether doctors to-day stand up to this high esteem. I'm afraid; the answer to this query will be very disappointing.

To-day, doctors are found to be most indifferent to their patients, callous about the treatment they render which makes me feel that the God we imagined in days gone by has changed his colour and form from an angel to a devil. Doctors who are dealing with human lives should be at least humane if not loving and caring.

However, in these days we find that doctors are not even humane and thus, how can men, patients look up to them as incarnations of God as done earlier. What I feel is that, the general image of doctors is now very low in the eyes of general public.

The public has realised much to its dismay that doctors are now only busy minting money as much as their profession can bring for them, and they have lost real touch with human beings, and human life.

It is true that all individuals have become money spinning machines but the doctors who once represented God, should have stayed

out of this race for money. Alas! This has not happened and this profession is as corrupt as any other.

With this background in mind, if I were a doctor I would first and foremost try to recover from the dumps, the image of the profession, the broken image of doctors would be repaired by constant effort.

It would be my prime objective to identify myself with the patients, put myself in their sick shoes and then act. I am sure if this could be done sincerely, I would be able to understand the pangs of pain the poor patient would be undergoing.

This would first of all make me behave humanly with him. Next, instead of keeping an eye on the amount of money he can pay for the treatment, I would rather concentrate on the treatment to be given, with a singular eye to cure him fully and just not bother how much he can pay me for the service.

I'd agree that the doctor is working to earn money, yes, his work is his bread and butter for this, and I'd take money and lots of it from the very rich and then treat the poor patients free. With this balancing act I think I would be able to earn enough money to maintain my life and family and also earn a sea of goodwill from the huge number of poor people.

I would earn besides money, love, respect, and reverence. Thus, contrary to what doctors earn these days, that is heaps and heaps of money only, I would earn money though not in heaps, but, love and respect in heaps - what more can anyone want from society?

With this attitude, I am sure I would be able to help other doctors also to come out of this rut and muck of just amassing wealth, at the cost of all other finer feelings for the public.



## 27. A visit to a Market Place

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A market place is the place spread out in a specific area, where a variety of goods of daily requirements are available for purchase by customers. There are an umpteen number

of markets all they catering to the daily requirements of the public, and they are placed close to residential areas for the convenience of the customers.

I had heard a lot about the super market in Colombo. Once this year, in the month of May, on the occasion of my sister's marriage, when my mother was going to super market for shopping. I insisted that I would also like to accompany her. My mother and even my sister tried their best to dissuade me from going.

They even told me that there would be too much crowd and that a child of my size may get suffocated there. However, I heard none of their comments and pleas but insisted on accompanying them. We started on our journey from Kolpitiya, and even when we were just half way through, my patience gave way as, the distance was forbidding.

Nothing could be done in the matter now. And I had to keep quiet as, I had myself put the suggestion and locked a noose round my neck. After about one and a half hours on the road we finally reached the much talked of super market.

What I saw in this market in the first place was a sea of men rushing up and down everywhere on all the roads. It appeared as though

all the people were just rushing to some very important mission to and fro on the roads. The sight of the crowd the one of the like I had never seen before just frightened me out of my wits, and, I already started

wondering why I opted to come here. As we proceeded towards the shops, I was really impressed. There all items of consumer needs could be seen in plenty, but all the shops were just too crowded.

Since we had gone there for shopping for my sister's marriage, we also had to wade through the crowd and do our work. First, we went to a jewelry shop. The sight of that long road full of jewelry shops on both sides of the road took me by surprise.

I had never imagined that, such an expensive item like jewelry was also available in dozens of shops and, each shop was crowded with customers. Here we sat for almost an hour in the shop where Mummy had ordered some items and thus for a while, got some relief from the pushing and jostling on the crowded roads.

After our work here, I was once again a bit fresh and now we moved to saree shops where we had to make bulk purchases for my sister and gifting to friends and relatives.

Oh my God what a shock awaited me here. So many narrow lanes were emerging from the main road and leading to huge saree shops with stocks of thousands of sarees. Sarees of golden work called zari were just glittering in those tiny shops. Here in these lanes I think we spent nearly three hours peeping into one shop and then another, and making selections of sarees.

This part of the market was not even visible from the main road but, it appeared to be an important business centre having brisk sales. I was absolutely dazed to see huge stocks piled up in each of these tiny shops. All salesmen in each and every shop were busy catching customers.

I noticed that, most women would come to a shop, see a few sarees and just go away, while some others were making purchases of thousands of rupees. The sale was rather brisk considering that the items

bought were far too expensive. Seeing the fast movement of customers in and out of the shops, I asked one of the shopkeepers if this was the situation prevailing every day.

To this, the reply was the obvious one that, these days the sale is more than usual because this period of the year was the marriage season, and the festival season is also round the corner. This reasoning did convince me to some extent but I still continued to wonder how much crowd there could be daily.

After having bought a lot of sarees, I don't know how many, we finally got up from the shop to get out - and believe me, we forget our way out, and got lost in those tiny congested lanes and by-lanes. Finally we had to ask someone to guide us to the main road.

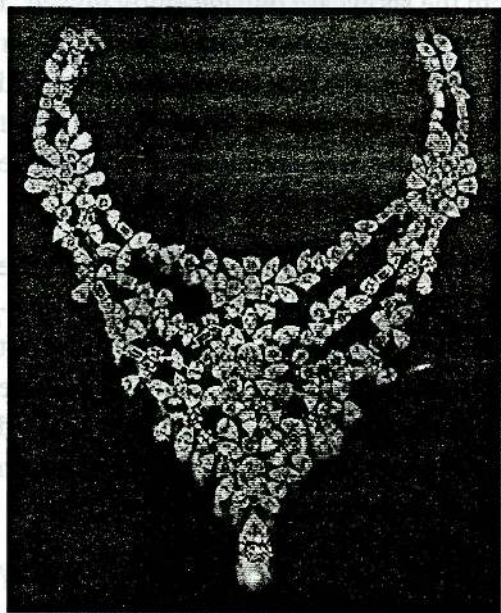
This visit to super market has been my first experience. The wading slowly through thick crowds, the shops full of items of daily consumption, the different markets for different items did impress me. Though it was a tiring day, but a wonderful shopping experience. This was my most interesting visit to a super market of repute in Colombo.





## 28. An Autobiography of a Diamond

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I am given to understand that, my beauty is unmatched, and so is my value in money. It is believed that I am the treasure for the elite rich of any society. A diamond is, I believe a very expensive stone, and, as for me -I am a complete set of several diamonds neatly set in platinum.'

Regarding my birth, I am not at all aware of the time and the place, but I remember my younger days when I

was being set in the platinum frame.

When each diamond was being cut and polished, I very distinctly remember many of the little ones screeched in pain, but when they were all set together into one big piece of jewellery, it became a beautiful set - that is ME. Yes I do agree there is no gain without pain, so, only after all the diamonds bore the pain of being cut to size, the result was the beautiful ME.

After being made to completion, I was placed in a case of maroon velvet and packed up. Now, I consist of six different items of jewellery i.e. one necklace, two bangles, two earrings, and one ring.

When I am fixed in slot set for me in one big box, and I see my reflection in the glass in front of me, even I wonder at my excellent beauty and shine and dance with joy in my heart. I am settled in a jewellery shop in an area called 'Swarna Mahal'

Here, I lie sometimes in the showcase, at other times in a Godrej Safe in the shop. Inside the Safe, I am believed to be secure, but believe me I get suffocated

However, when i am set in the showcase outside enjoy myself. I can see people coming in and going out, discussing jewels and other things of importance and most of all enjoy people coming to see me and praise me. This praise boosts my spirit and feels that after all life is not really bad here even in the shop. All this makes me feel fresh and alive till, I am once again put inside the locker of the ' Safe.'

One fine day while I was inside the safe, a family came to the shop. They asked my master if he could show them something in diamonds. I was the only diamond set at the shop at that time. This request helped me come out of the safe. As soon as I was placed in front of the family, their young daughter, a bride-to-be jumped at me and requested her parents to buy me forthwith. At last I had found my rightful place in the beautiful neck, ears and arm of the lovely girl.

My present status, as I write this is that, I am a part of the girl's dowry and waiting to adorn the young girl when she becomes a bride.

It is my proud privilege to belong to such an elite family - and that also to none other than their lovely daughter,

Now, my dear owner is keeping me safe inside her locker, once again to feel suffocated, though the pleasure of having this cute owner duly compensates for my troubles and woes. I have to remember all the time that, this is all in store for someone who is the best.



## 29. The Saraswati Puja



Goddess Saraswati is regarded as the goddess of learning and music. It is believed that she is robed in white. She carries a lyre. She is seated on a white lotus. She bestows vidya which means learning.

Therefore, the Saraswati Puja is a popular festival of the Students. It is celebrated by the Hindu Students in almost all schools and colleges of Sri Lanka. It is celebrated on the fifth day in the month of October especially in spring season. Therefore this festival is also called the Navaraththiri. All educational institutions remain closed on this day. Students worship, the goddess with great joy.

Preparation for the celebration begins with the collection, of subscription from the students. The idol of the goddess Saraswati is placed in a hall which is properly cleaned and decorated with coloured papers. The idol is also decorated with such flowers as marigold and rose. The image looks sublime and the atmosphere grand.

This is an auspicious day for the students. They abstain from reading and writing on this day only as a mark of respect to the goddess. Notwithstanding this austere observance, students enjoy this festival with great pleasure. A learned Hindu Priest is invited to perform the holy Puja of the goddess.

Normally students wear new dress on this day. They pray the goddess for wisdom; they also offer flowers to the deity and sing the prayer-song in her honour.. The Prasadam is shared by the students, teachers and the guests.

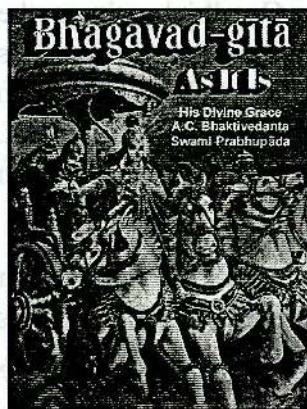
• Often, the students arrange feasts. Cultural programmers are also arranged on the evening.

Normally, the immersion ceremony takes place on the next day. The students carry the image of the goddess in a grand procession to the nearby river. Often a band party is also arranged for the purpose. The celebration comes to the end with the immersion of the idol.

The function has a deep educative value. Students learn to be spiritual in their life. They also learn the value of co-operation, amity and leadership.



## 30. My Favorite Book



I am fond of reading books. I have read many books. I have also read holy books such as the Ramayana, the Mahabharata and the story of Gautama, the Buddha. But the Bhagwat Gita has influenced me the most.

The Bhagwat Gita is a message to the human soul. Arjun saw his own relatives and teachers in the Army of the Kauravas. So he did not want to fight a war. He requested Lord Krishna to allow him to stop fighting. Then

Lord Krishna gave the sermon of the Bhagwat Gita to Arjuna.

Lord Krishna said, “Do your duty Arjuna, the human soul is immortal. It never dies. One’s duty brings glory to the human soul. We should follow the course of righteousness. We should give up all evil thoughts and revert to Yogic life”.

After listening to the sermon of the Bhagwat Gita, Arjuna took up arms to fight against the Kauravas.

The Bhagwat Gita contains 700 hymns. This book is not meant for any particular religion. It is written for all the human beings. It advises people to give up the evil path and follow the path of goodness.

The Bhagwat Gita has changed my life. I try to follow the path shown in this great book.



# 31. Mahatma Gandhi



Mahatma Gandhi has been the greatest man of modern times. He is respected by the whole world. When he was killed, the whole world wept. He was the Father of the Indian Nation.

People called him Bapu (father) in love. His full name was Mohan Das

Karam Chand Gandhi. Gandhiji was born at Porbandar in 2nd October, 1869.

His early education was in Gujarat. Later he went to England to study law and become a barrister and started practice in Bombay. But he was not successful as a lawyer.

He went to Africa. There he fought for the rights of Indians. On his return to India, he joined Congress.

Soon he became an important leader of the Congress. Then he started non-cooperation movement against the British rule in India.

He was a great devotee of animas or non-violence. He was sent to jail many times. At last India won freedom on 15th August, 1947 under his prompt leadership.

Gandhiji was a saint-politician. His faith in God was firm and deep. He never told a lie. He advised people never to utter untruth. He was a great social reformer.

He was killed on 30th January 1948. He died in the cause of Hindu Muslim unity. His Samadhi at Rajghat is visited by hundreds of people daily.





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