

G.D.GOENKA PUBLIC SCHOOL

Subject: Moral Science Date: September 15, 2021 Lesson no 6: The worthy Successor Theme: Common Good

Objective: To improve comprehension and writing skills.

Activities: Re-write the summary of the story "The Worthy Successor" in your own words changing past tense to present simple tense wherever possible.



The Worthy Successor

This is a story about a priest who lived in a famous temple, high up in the hills of Assam. As the priest grew older he wanted a successor who could take charge of the temple but could not find even one person who would fit this position.

Once when the priest was on a deathbed he told Gopan, the caretaker of the temple to choose only a human being for taking charge of the temple. When the holy man died there was a urgent need of a new priest. A date was fixed for the interview at the temple. On the day of interview, Gopan saw many young men had come for the interview, climbing steep and dangerous hill.

Now, Gopan was confused and did not understand what the dying priests' words meant but he knew his words had some hidden meaning. Gopan gave all these men food and water as they were exhausted by the time they reached the temple. Once refreshed, they were interviewed and Gopan found each one of them better than the other for handling the duties of a priest. When Gopan was struggling to choose one for the position, he saw a tired young man limping into the temple courtyard. His clothes were torn and he was badly hurt.

Gopan rushed to him and asked him what had happened. The young man told him that he had come for the interview but was late because he was removing the sharp stones and thorny bushes on the mountain trail to the temple. He wanted that the people should come to the temple without getting hurt. That is when the dying priests' words struck Gopan's mind. He remembered his words "Make sure that only a human being is chosen as the priest of this temple", and he understood what he meant.

Gopan chose this young man as the new priest and told others about the dying priests' wish. As they all got disappointed, he told them that the priest used to tell him even animals can take care of themselves. They hunt for food and look after themselves but only humans understand feelings of others and take care of others. Then he told them that they all climbed the hill on the dangerous trail but nobody thought of clearing the path for others except this young man.

On hearing this everyone agreed and Gopan, looking up in the sky, thanked the priest in heaven.

Moral of the story: Be helpful to others and God will always help you.