**ATOMIC ENERGY EDUCATION SOCIETY, MUMBAI**

**HANDOUT- 1**                                                         **MODULE-1/3**

SUB: ENGLISH                                                                                                      CLASS: IX

LESSON: 5                          **THE HAPPY PRINCE** (MOMENTS)

**Introduction of the story:**

**"The Happy Prince"**

Oscar Wilde became the editor of Woman's World (1887-89). During this period of apprenticeship as a writer, he published The Happy Prince and Other Tales (1888), which reveals his gift for romantic allegory in the form of the fairy tale. This story is about a Prince. When the prince was alive, he was very happy. A big statue of the prince was erected on a pedestal after his death. From there, the statue of the Prince could see the entire city and at that time he saw the miseries of the people. He saw the poor people, the homeless, their hunger, and starvation. The Prince became sad when he saw all these miseries of the people. The statue of the Happy Prince was covered with gold and many fine jewels. One day, a swallow passing through seeks shelter under the statue and discovers the prince is not happy, but sad.

Thus, the story of the Happy Prince is **'ironic'**.

**The statue of the happy prince:**

The Happy Prince was a beautiful statue of a real prince. He was covered with gold; he had sapphires for eyes, and a ruby in his sword. This statue was set on a tall column by his courtiers.

**Arrival of a swallow:**

A little swallow came and sat at the feet of the statue. It wanted to spend a night at the feet of the statue. It was going to sleep but its sleep was disturbed because a large drop of water fell on its head. The swallow was totally wonderstruck. There was no cloud and hence there was no question of rain. Then the second drop fell. The swallow was interested in flying away, but then the third drop of water fell which made the swallow look at the statue of the Prince. He found that the drops of water were the tears coming from the eyes of the Prince.

**The prince tells the reason:**

The Happy Prince told the swallow that when he was alive he knew no tears. He led a happy life. That was why he was called the Happy Prince. Now he has been put on a higher stage, he saw how miserable the life of the people was. The prince wants to help the miserable people.

**The happy prince's desire:**

The statue of the happy prince sees all the misery of the city. He weeps when he sees people in trouble. He wanted to help them.

But he was helpless as his feet were fixed on the pedestal.

**The swallow as messenger:**

 A swallow stayed at the feet of the statue of the happy prince for the night. On the request of the happy prince it prolonged its stay and helped the poor and the needy people.

**First, The swallow helps the seamstress:** The Prince requested the swallow to help a seamstress who was embroidering flowers on the gown for the Queen. The seamstress was leading a life of poverty. Her little boy was lying ill in the bed. The Prince asked the swallow to pick out the ruby from his sword hilt and give it to that woman. The swallow plucked out the ruby from the Prince's sword and flew to the house of the seamstress. The swallow put the ruby beside the poor woman. It fanned the boy's forehead. The boy felt better and went to sleep.

**Importance of Doing Good Deeds:**

Leo Tolstoy in his short story Three Questions' tells us about a hermit. The hermit tells the king that doing good to others is the mission for which man has been sent into this world'. Good actions lift up the spirit of a person and give him joy. No wonder, the swallow feels happy and warm after giving the ruby to the poor seamstress whose son has a fever. When we give help to the poor and the needy, we establish oneness with him/her. Since all human beings are the manifestation of the Divine, Our help sets us in tune with the Almighty God who is always benevolent and helpful to the poor and the needy. So the good actions strengthen the feeling of oneness with God. That is why they give us joy and warmth.

*"It is curious", he (Swallow) remarked," but I feel quite warm now, although it is so cold. "That is because you have done a good action," said the Prince.*

**(Note: All the students are expected to note down the difficult/new words in the story with their meanings from the dictionary in order to enrich vocabulary.)**

**AECS, INDORE.**

**Prepared by:**

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