



TALKING ABOUT THE TEXT

Discuss the following:

Q1. "Freedom from fear is more important than Legal justice for the poor."

Do you think that the poor of India are free from fear after Independence?

Ans: For the poor of India means of survival are far more important than freedom or legal justice. I don't think the poor of India are free from fear after Independence. The foreign rulers have been replaced by corrupt politicians and self-serving bureaucracy. Power- brokers and moneylenders have a field day. The situation has improved in cities and towns for the poor but the poor in the remote villages still fear the big farmers and moneylenders. The police and revenue officials are still objects of terror for them. The poor, landless workers have to still work hard to make both ends meet. Peasants and tenant-farmers have to borrow money from rich moneylenders on exorbitant rates of interest, which usually they fail to repay due to failure of monsoon or bad crops. Cases of small farmers committing suicide are quite common. If this is not due to fear, what is the reason behind it?

Q2. The qualities of a good leader.

Ans: A good leader has a mass appeal. He rises from the masses, thinks for them and works for them. He is sincere in his approach. He is a man of principles. Truth, honesty, patriotism, morality, spirit of service and sacrifice are the hallmarks of a good leader. He never mixes politics with religion or sect. He believes in working for the welfare of the nation and does not think in the narrow terms of class, caste or region. Corruption and nepotism are two evils that surround a leader in power. The life of a good leader is an open book. There is no difference between his words and actions. Such good leaders are very rare. What we find today are practical politicians, who think of achieving their end without bothering about the purity of means. The law of expediency gets the better of morality.

WORKING WITH WORDS

1. List the words used in the text that are related to legal procedures. For example: deposition

Ans: Notice, summons, prosecutor, trial, plead, guilty, order, penalty, sentence, bail, judgement, prison, case, inquiry, evidence, commission.

List other words that you know that fall into this category.

Ans. Complaint, complainant, decree, defendant, witness, prosecution, defence, sessions, jury, verdict, decision.

THINKING ABOUT LANGUAGE

Q1. Notice the sentences in the text which are in 'direct speech'. Why does the author use quotations in his narration?

Ans: The following sentences in the text are in 'direct speech'.

(a) He said, "I will tell you how it happened that I decided to urge the departure of the British. It was in 1917."

(b) Gandhi recounted. "A peasant came up to me looking like any other peasant in India, poor and emaciated, and said, 'I am Rajkumar Shukla. I am from Champaran, and I want you to come to my district!'"

- (c) Gandhi said, "I have to be in Calcutta on such-and-such a date. Come and meet me and take me from there".
- (d) "It was an extraordinary thing 'in those days," Gandhi commented, 'For a government professor to harbour a man like me.'
- (e) He said, "I have come to the conclusion that we should stop going to law courts. Taking such cases to the courts does little good. Where the peasants are so crushed and fear-stricken, law courts are useless. The real relief for them is to be free from fear."
- (f) "The commissioner," Gandhi reports, "proceeded to bully me and advised me forthwith to leave Tirhut".
- (g) 'But how much must we pay?' they asked Gandhi.
- (h) One woman took Kasturbabai into her hut and said, "Look, there is no box or cupboard here for clothes. The sari I am wearing is the only one I have".
- (i) "What I did", he explained, "was a very ordinary thing. I declared that the British could not order me about in my own country".
- (j) He said, "You think that in this unequal fight it would be helpful if we have an Englishman on our side. This shows the weakness of your heart. The cause is just and you must rely upon yourselves to win the battle. You should not seek a prop in Mr ' Andrews because he happens to be an Englishman".
- (k) "He had read our minds correctly," Rajendra Prasad comments, "and we had no reply ... Gandhi in this way taught us a lesson in self-reliance".

The choice of the direct form strengthens the effectiveness of narration. The author uses quotations to highlight certain points which may not appear so effective in reporting indirectly.

Q2. Notice the use or non-use of the comma in the following sentences:

- (a) When I first visited Gandhi in 1942 at his ashram in Sevagram, he told me what happened in Champaran.
- (b) He had not proceeded far when the police superintendent's messenger overtook him. (c) When the court reconvened, the judge said he would not deliver the judgement for several days.

Ans:

- (i) When the subordinate clause comes before the main clause, a comma is used to separate it from the main clause.
- (ii) No comma is used when the main clause comes before the subordinate clause.

THINGS TO DO

1. Choose an issue that has provoked a controversy like the Bhopal Gas Tragedy or the Narmada Dam Project in which the lives of the poor have been affected.
2. Find out the facts of the case.
3. Present your arguments.
4. Suggest a possible settlement.

Ans:

Extension activity : To be attempted under the guidance of the teacher.

***** END *****