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## He Defines Parenthood

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### **Abstract:**

The short fiction narrates a very funny incident in the life of Goutham master and his take on the challenging situation. The plot develops with the description of his two sons- Surya and Sathya. The story carries a relevant message for a generation that is built on communication gap, compulsions and obstruction on individual freedom. The funny situation evolves out of the different nature and strange ways of Sathya, the younger son of the master. The fixation of the human mindset on some ideals and frameworks also are under rethinking as per the climax of the story.

### **He Defines Parenthood**

One must not be a regular, prompt and punctual student in the school life to be a real success in the professional or personal life. Many successful persons' childhood stories have proven this fact to the world. Instead of timetable oriented daily routines which rival the military camps, the real enthusiastic life experiences, moral and mental support of those who accompany a child whenever necessary can rescue him from falling down to the dungeon of frustration and despondency.

A father recollects the strange and rare wish of his son during his childhood.

Goutham master was a bit tensed about the attitude of his younger son Sathya towards going to school. It was a bit different from his elder son Surya who has been a regular visitor to the school. But being a teacher who always carried the key to open the mindset of the students of the age in his heart, Goutham never wanted to compel or hurt Sathya at least once for the reason. The literature oriented readings and the lineage towards Communism might have made him so broad minded a person.

Sathya got admitted in one of the nearby schools where Surya has already secured the identity of a senior. The first few days in the school were so interesting for him. But the hiking in the strength of the rainfalls and that of laziness in Sathya always maintained a proportion. He never liked to get up early or to have a look through the pages of the textbooks.

“Sathya, wake up! It's time for you to go to school. Surya will be ready in five minutes.”

“Oh! Pa, please let me sleep for some more time. I don't feel interested to go today.”

Goutham master was astonished and surprised at the remark regarding the lack of interest in a little boy of six to go to school. He has come to know about different kinds of problems in school children who mention about their dislike for going to school because of the fear of teachers, hatred for fellow students, or problems in grasping lessons and so on....

But reason his son talks about now is a strange one and rare among the students of his age but possible and common among teenagers.

So, instead of scolding Sathya or compelling him to go to school, the father decided to make a deconstruction of the total situation. First aspect of his decision was his reading regarding the little boy's audacity to tell anything frankly and openly to his father, that he has to encourage that can make their parent-child relationship an enviable one for the whole world.

The second step was about the appreciation he should give for the boy's lack of tension about the classes or lessons which he would lose if he does not attend the class. Instead in it lies his son's real confidence in his own skills to make up everything if he wants or tries.

Goutham master was very happy about it as he has seen the hue and cry made by many students who feel like losing the major part of their student life after being absent in the classes for one or two days.

Thirdly, master saw in his beloved son was his determination to decide his life his own. But this has brought the father and son into a great perplexity at the end of that academic year.

For the whole year Sathya's excuse regarding lack of interest in school going filled the home with an amount of surprise, tension and at times chaos also, if not by the father.

On March 31<sup>st</sup> of the year, which is the closing date of almost all the schools in Kerala for summer vacation, Sathya slept until 12 o'clock as usual. After waking up and playing for some time, he noticed many students returning homes carrying bags and books.

When his father returned from school, Sathya ran towards him to tell about his decision or in a way a simple wish: to be a regular student in school from the next day onwards...

Goutham masters mouth became wide open without being able to come to the plane of reality from that of surprise as well as shock.

'What should I do with my little naughty child? Until this day while getting compelled as one gets medicine in a day, he didn't want to go to school! But now, on the closing day itself, he has come up with a beautiful decision!!!'

But Goutham hasn't forgotten to hide the surprise and smile on his face. Casually he told his son:

"Oh! Very nice, you can go...."

Hearing the comment, Sathya's mother who has always been worried about the son, came to read out the funny plan of her husband from his eyes, of which skill in him she has been very much confident.

Sathya's strange wishes, decisions and scores filled his family life with surprises as well as tensions. But now the parents can be proud of their son as he holds a wonderful professional life which may seem dreamlike for most 'regular visitors' to schools and colleges.

Devoted to a father who brought the theory of parenthood into the realm of praxis.