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Water

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It was a Sunday morning. Rahman, a twelve year old boy was sleeping. For him he has already planned in the previous night to sleep till 11 as it was a holiday. Unfortunately he was disturbed by the heavy noise made by the villagers. Waking away from bed he found the villagers were running here and there talking to one another by making noise. Rahman studies eighth standard in a village local school. Being confused still in sleepy mood he asked his mother Fatima about this kind of strange behavior among the people.

He asked, “ma what is happening outside? and why are people making noise in the street?”.

“Don’t you know that there is no water available in the river. It was so shocked to find the river was being empty today morning; I don’t know how to tackle the condition Rahman”, with worried voice she replied.

Few years ago the village Maanjur was well-known for beautiful natural scenes. One could feel happy by seeing trees everywhere which gave a beautiful outlook to the village. And also there was a river in the village from which people used to get water and other sources like fishes. During rainy season the village people enjoyed a lot. The happy cry made by children and birds reminded the old men to think about their childhood. The village also had a school, a masjid, a temple and a church. All the people from different communities are living happily like brothers and sisters. In short the village is best at its communal harmony.

There were around seventy seven families in the whole village. All their water needs were only based on the river. Later things began to change due to people’s greed on having lands and houses. They began to cut down the trees and also changed the agricultural lands into living places. Many farmers gave up farming and went for other works.

Only people's greedy has led to this sudden difficult situation. The outlook of the village has totally changed. Trees are the friends of men from which a man can get a lot of benefits. Realizing this truth is very hard for the people. They don't even give importance to the one who has realized this truth.

A man with big eyes namely Raja has realized the future danger as he knew the importance of trees. Many a time he used to warn people about it. Unfortunately there was no

importance given to his words and nearly seventy five percentages of the trees were destroyed by people.

On one such occasion Raja argued with a man who was so greedy. The man wanted to become a rich one. In his argument with Raja he blamed him and said, “See, Abu you are so innocent and you really do not know how to live in this world I mean you are really unfit to live here”. This is the treatment may be given to the people who have realized the significant of nature in a man’s life.

“Yes, you are right but you should remember one thing. The day is very near us and on that day you all will realize your foolish mistakes but it would be too late” Abu responded angrily and went out.

Finally the day has come. For the first time the village Maanjur met water scarcity. As there was no rain for the past three years water level has been reducing day by day. And so people began to struggle for water. Suddenly on that day they found the river was being empty and fishes were dead.

Rahman thought about the statement that was written on the black board. His teacher namely Naresh used to give a peace of mind to the students regarding water. He asked them not to waste the water by unnecessary ways. In one of his classes he wrote on the black board as “**Save Water** otherwise your future generation have to drink drainage water”.

In the next day Rahman went to school. Every one of his classmates were talking about this. While returning home accidentally he listened to the conversation between two men. One of them said, “I don’t know what to do and how to get water for our needs; I think we are going to die out of thirst”.

“Yes, you are right I don’t have enough water at my home if I was aware of this situation I would have stored some more water but we can’t do anything now”, the other one replied.

Luckily Rahman’s mother has stored some water at their home and with that they could manage for few days.

Every problem might have some solution. Even for very difficult problem one can get a solution by having a discussion with others. It was time to call for a meeting to find an exact solution for the problem.

Kaali, the village panchayat leader called for a meeting in order to discuss about the present situation. The crier announced to every villager, “it is to inform the villagers that they have to assemble at the center of the village tomorrow”.

Rahman feels afraid of the sound from the drum of the crier. He heard it till he reaches the end. His mind thought about the next situation. He feared about his future.

The next day all the people had assembled at the center of the village under a Banyan tree. The panchayat leader asked for the solution from people but nobody come out with an exact solution. Finally it was decided in the meeting that people should not take bath until the problem get solved.

Days passed the situation got worse than before. There was no water to drink and violence entered into the village. People began to fight terribly for water and kill each other. Small babies and old people suffered a lot due to water scarcity. As there was no other way they were supposed to drink drainage water (The statement of Rahman's teacher has become true). The result made some watery diseases among the villagers. After few days there was a great demand for drainage water too.

An old man fell down and died when he walked and said, "We've made foolish mistakes and now we are dealing the causes; only the Almighty can save us from this"

The whole village was covered with the crying noise made by people. They cried! cried! and cried a lot. They were dying. They were helpless and standing at the end of their life. No help from anyone even from God as one has to face the causes made out of foolish acts. They have failed to realize this earlier and now they have realized it but it was too late.

Rahman worried about the situation. He wrote a letter to his father who was working abroad describing the worst condition. He wrote, "Dear father we are dying here without water; please bring mom and me there and **save our lives**", the words would kill his father when he would read it.

It is possible to live without food but it is not possible to live without water. The villagers have not drunken even a single drop of water for three days. They were nearly about to die. Mothers have taken a heartfelt decision in order to save their children's lives. Whenever their babies cry for water they made scratches in their bodies and gave the blood to them. The villagers became so cruel and they have killed their cattle and started to drink its blood. Men have become so brutal towards women and children. The whole village became like a forest filled with merciless animals.

While returning after posting the letter to his father Rahman was approached by some men, who were sitting under a tree. They talked to him so nicely; having failed to realize their plan he was talking to them innocently. A fat man asked him, "Where were you, Rahman?"

"I went to post a letter to my father", he replied.

Another man asked him, "What for?"

"To explain things to him and also I have asked him to bring my mom and me to his place"

"Oh, I see", the other answered.

Suddenly one of them caught the boy from behind and asked others to cut his throat. Rahman was so shocked and tried his best to relieve himself but his efforts were useless. The fat man came near him with a sharp knife. The moment the fat man was about to cut Rahman's throat, he wakes up from bed and said, "Oh God; was it a dream?", "Yes" said to himself and breathed.

"We should save water otherwise my dream will become true" Rahman said to himself and went to sleep.