



FEZANA Age-Appropriate Lesson Plan

Subject Category (circle one): Religion/Ceremony History Prayer **Gathas**
Comparative Religion Shahnameh

Age Group (circle one): PreK-K Grades 1-3 **Grades 4-5** Grades 6-8 Grades 9-12

Subject of the Lesson:

Freedom to choose- Yasna 30.2

Background Knowledge for the Teacher:

Yasna 30.2

Transliterated Text:

*sraotâ gêushâish vahishtâ
avaênatâ sûcâ mananghâ
âvarenâ vîcithahyâ
narêm narem xvaxyâi tanuyê
parâ mazê yânghô
ahmâi nê sazdyâi baodañtô paitî.*

(The Gathas: Yasna 30.2)

Translated Text:

By Dr. Jafarey

Hear the best with your ears
and ponder with a bright mind.
Then each man and woman, for his or her self,
select either of the [following] two.
Awaken to this Doctrine of ours
before the Great Event of Choice ushers in.

By Dinshaw J. Irani

Hearken with your ears to these Best Counsels,
Reflect upon them with illumined judgement. Let each choose his creed, with that freedom of choice
each must have at Great Events,
Oh ye, be awake to these my announcements



Vocabulary:

sûcâ mananghâ

- clear mind, Bright intellect

narêm narem

- man and woman, for each one

vîcithahyâ

- Choice

Learning target

Students will learn:

Everyone is born with a Manah (mind) which can be used in either a good or bad way or a combination of both

The ability to decide what is good and what is evil, is the function of understanding. The better the understanding, the greater is the person's ability to recognize right from wrong; and wisdom can be defined as the ability to distinguish between good and evil. Every person must use reason, intuition, and logic to make the right choices.

Zoroastrianism is a religion of choice.

Lesson for students:

Nick, Steve, and Tania were good friends and neighbors. As long as anyone could remember, they spent most of their free time together. One of their fun activities was to stroll through the City Center Mall where there was a discounted movie theater, a candy store, and a bunch of other fun shops. One day as they walked to the mall to go see a movie, Steve suggested going to the candy store before watching a movie. Everyone agreed and as they got closer, Tania said: "The candy sold at the store is too expensive. We always pay a lot of money getting just one piece of candy. It would be cool if this time we just go to the store, and while the owner is not looking, take some candy." Nick nodded and continued, "I can go talk to the owner and distract him while you take some pieces of candy. Don't forget to get me some too." As the two continued planning their mischief, Steve remembered his mom telling him not to take anything that is not his, and his dad telling him to always do the right thing. He had a decision to make. Listening to his elders, he knew in his heart that this was wrong but did not have the courage to go against his friend's wishes. He knew if he said anything they would make fun of him and call him a coward. How could he resolve this struggle inside?



Activity for Students:

On a piece of paper ask each student to write about a real-life situation that requires them to make a difficult decision. Everyone drops their paper in a jar. The teacher asks each student to draw a paper and say what would be the right thing to do in that situation.

Take away lesson:

From a very early stage in your life, you will be faced with situations where you need to make decisions. Making a decision should always be based on knowledge. Always refer to your elders or those you trust. If you don't know, ask.

To carry out your right decision, you will need courage. Practice from a very early age since this is a prerequisite for becoming an independent adult. Even being courageous is a learned behavior.

Sources:

1. The Gathas Our Guide Translated by AA Jafarey
2. Hymns of Zarathusthra Translated by DJ Irani

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