



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

Lesson # (if applicable):

Subject of the Lesson:

Yasna 30.3-Good and Evil

Background Knowledge for the Teacher:

Yasna 30.3

Transliterated Text:

*at tâ mainyû pouruyê
ýâ ýêmâ khvafenâ asrvâtem
manahicâ vacahicâ
shyaathanôi hî vahyô akemcâ
âscâ hudânghô eresh vîshyâtâ
nôit duzhdânghô.*

(The Gathas: Yasna 30.3)

By Dr. Jafarey

Now, the two foremost mentalities,
known to be imaginary twins,
are the better and the bad
in thoughts, words, and deeds.
Of these the beneficent choose correctly,
but not so the maleficent.

By Dinshaw J. Irani

In the beginning there were two Primal Spirits, Twins simultaneously active, these are the Good, and the Evil, in thought, and in word, and in deed. Between these two, let the wise one choose right, Be good, not bad.

Learning target

Good and Evil are mentalities, not entities. Good and bad notions and thoughts evolve in one's mind and then translate into words and deeds. Think good, get better. Think evil, see evil.



Lesson for students:

"If a black cat crosses a path in front of you, it brings you bad luck". Adam had heard this from his friends and read it online. Now, today of all days, he had to see a black cat crossing the street as he was walking to school. Today at second period, he had his midterm on science. He had studied the night before but seeing this black cat made him really anxious. He was so disturbed; he did not see his friend Lisa coming toward him. Lisa was a second generation Japanese and a close friend of Adam who lived in the same neighborhood. "What is wrong. you seem to be very distracted this morning". Adam explained what had happened earlier and the reason for his distress. " This is funny since in Japanese culture, a black cat is a symbol of good luck ", Lisa exclaimed. I bet you will do great in your test.

Activity for Students:

Ask students:

What kind of effect will black cat crossing the path in front of Adam have on the results of his exam?

If Adam believes the black cat will bring him bad luck, could it affect his grade?

If Adam believes black cat will bring him good luck, could it affect his grade?

can you come up with natural occurrences that people think as being bad/evil even though it is neither. (Earthquakes, eclipses, ...)

Take away lesson:

Good and evil is the creation of our mind. it's so important for us to nurture our mind in a way that good prevails. Ultimately, it's our thoughts and actions that determine the outcomes.

Sources:

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

Prepared by: Mandana Pishdadi

Edited by: Roya Behmardian and Hilda Kasravi

Date: 12/2021