



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 vs Evil

Background Knowledge for the Teacher:

Yasna 30.3

Transliterated Text:

*at tâ mainyû pouruyê
yâ yêmâ 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 translated into words and deeds. Think good, get better. Think evil, see evil.

Lesson for students:

Sam and 4 of his friends made plans to go see a movie on Saturday. They buy their ticket and enter the movie theatre. One of the friends in the group (Dara) tells the group that another movie that he really wants to see has just been released and is also showing. He explains how cool it would be if they snuck in and saw the second movie without buying another ticket. The other three think that it's a very clever idea. Sam doesn't feel right about doing this, but he sees that he is the only one not excited about this idea. He thinks they will be doing something bad and is quite upset.

Activity for Students:

1. Why do different people think differently facing the same situations?
2. Who and what determines Bad vs. Good when it comes to making a decision?
3. Can an action be bad if it doesn't cause physical harm to anyone? How about financial harm?
4. Which point of view do you agree with and why?

Take away lesson:

We create the notion of good and bad in our thoughts and act accordingly. There is no easy way to master this function other than being informed and being in harmony with our surroundings. Aiming on doing the right thing will aid our mind to thrive in creating goodness in our thoughts leading to good deeds.

Sources:

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

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