



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 translate into words and deeds. Think good, get better. Think evil, see evil.

Lesson for students:

Creation consists of different life forms surrounded by different natural forces in an amazing harmony in which human beings live.

There is also a natural law that governs this universe in which opposites exist. Negative and positive poles, matter and antimatter phenomenon, darkness, and light, cold and hot and many more examples are what we face in everyday life and are constantly affecting our being. Our focus though is on good and evil which initiates in our mind and governs our values and behavior.

Basically, it's our perception of different events and ideas that makes us label something as good or bad. These perceptions should be formed based on knowledge through our good mind. Our right choices should shine through our good thoughts into good words and deeds hence overshadowing the bad/ evil.

Activity for Students:

- 1: Think about a natural occurrence that people have a perception of it being bad/evil; even though it's beneficial for the planet. (Forest fires)
- 2: Name an example of something that is labeled as good or desirable by your standards but is really bad by your parents' values.
ie: partying with your friends to be cool on a school night
- 3: Are you being judgmental when you think of something as good or bad and if so is it ok?
- 4: when are we justified as we determine if something is good or evil?
- 5: should anything be labeled as absolute good or bad? Give examples in either case?
i.e.: killing, lying, cheating, helping, donating, saving..... (intentions are key factor)

Take away lesson:

Opposite exists all around us as part of this existence. We as humans put value on them based on our desires and value system which should be done logically and intelligently. Good and evil is the creation of our mind; so, 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

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