



## 14. The Angel of Peace

*Identify the person in the picture. What do you know about her ?*

It was Christmas time and there was a merry atmosphere all around. But the charity home which used to arrange Christmas party every year for the children, was passing through a state of crisis. It seemed that there would not be any party that year and the children would miss the special food on that occasion. Then suddenly a person came in and handed over an envelope to Mother. He said that Mother could use the money the way she liked. There were new hundred rupee notes in it and that year the children had the best Christmas party that they ever had.



This happened most of the times and at times when the door-bell did not ring, Mother was still able to collect money for that occasion. Her system of helping the poor was simplicity itself; she did what was possible. “She had no idea where the money would come from. But if a project was needed she would go ahead,” said one admirer.

The Mother we are talking about, is none other than Mother Teresa, who is known as the ‘*Lady of the Slums*’, ‘*The Angel of Mercy*’, ‘*The Saint of the Gutters*’, ‘*The Gentle Mother*’ and other such names.

Her first major project – a home for the destitute, sick and dying, was opened in 1952 when she saw an old woman dying on the street, eaten by rats and ants. She picked her up, took her to the hospital and refused to move from there until she was admitted. Then she went to the municipal authorities and asked for a shelter where the dying poor could die in dignity. She was provided a place near the Kali Temple Kolkata, and the following day she and her sisters and the dying- moved in. Today, some 150 people, many seriously ill and unacceptable elsewhere, are washed, fed and sheltered in this Kolkata home, called ‘Nirmal Hriday’.



*Name some people in your area who help the poor.*

Returning to the streets of Kolkata, she began, collecting children to teach them hygiene. She sought a centre for her work. When a family offered rooms on the top floor of their large house, she appointed some assistants, eventually 26 in all, who formed the nucleus of the 'Missionaries of Charity'. Now their number is more than 700 - mostly young Indians.

She lived a simple life, travelled by second-class on train, got down on hands and knees to scrub floors. She cherished simplicity and wore a shawl more darned than knitted. She saw in the poor what others often fail to see, their loneliness, their humour, their honesty and their courage.

"I am anxious for people to know of the greatness of the poor," she said. She once went to a Hindu family which had been starving and brought them rice. Before she knew it, the mother of the family had divided it and given half of the rice to the muslim family next door. She said that they were just as hungry as her family was. "I believe we need the poor as much as they need us," said Mother Teresa.

*How do you help your neighbours?*

The woman in the white sari with a blue border, Mother Teresa, till her death had no money, no property, no savings of her own. But her real wealth was Himalayan in size-7500 children in 60 schools, 9,60,000 patients cared for in 213 dispensaries; 4700 victims of leprosy in 54 clinics; 1600 abandoned or orphaned children in 20 homes and 3400 destitute or dying people in 23 homes, all this in 35 cities and towns in India and in a dozen other countries.

Today, even though she is not with us anymore, she is still loved by the poor and the neglected; respected by the Missionaries of Charity, admired by the Hindus, Muslims and Christians alike for her life long commitment to the poor that transcends all barriers.

### ***Word Meanings***

merry	state of cheerfulness, fun, happiness
crisis	difficulty, uncertainty
simplicity	state of being plain, without pomp and show
project	a piece of work which needs effort, skill and planning
admirer	one who thinks of someone with pleasure and respect
slum	an area of a city that is in a very bad condition
Angel	a messenger and servant of God
mercy	kindness, pity, willingness to forgive
saint	<b><i>sant, Mahatma</i></b>
gutter	bad social conditions of the lowest or poorest level of society, canal filled with flow of dirty water

destitute	having no money, no food and no shelter
Missionaries of Charity	an organisation that collects money or food to help the poor and needy
dignity	a state that makes one feel cared for and respected
abandoned	left alone
hygiene	the study and practice of how to keep good health
assistant	helper
nucleus	original or central point
cherish	to love and care for someone / something
darned	a cloth/garment repaired by weaving threads
loneliness	state of being alone
humour	funny, something that makes people laugh
anxious	worried
starving	without food
Himalayan	huge, great
dispensary	small health center
clinic	part of a hospital where people come for special medical treatment
transcend	to go beyond the limits
commitment	a responsibility to follow a certain course of action

### Reading Comprehension

#### A. Answer the following questions.

1. How did the charity home celebrate Christmas every year ?
2. What did the man hand over to the Mother. ?
3. What does it mean by “ when the door-bell did not ring.” ?
4. What did the admirer say ?
5. What is ‘Nirmal Hriday’ ?
6. What did Mother do on the streets of Kolkata ?
7. How was the ‘Missionaries of Charity’ formed ?
8. Find out words that describe Mother’s simplicity ?
9. What did she want the people to know about the poor ?
10. What was Mother Teresa’s real wealth ?
11. How do people remember Mother Teresa ?

#### B. Write True or False for each of the sentences given below.

- a. The children of charity-home used to enjoy Christmas party every year. ( )

- b. The envelope contained new thousand (1000) rupee notes. ( )
- c. Many times the inmates of the charity home had no Christmas party. ( )
- d. Mother knew from where the money would come for a project. ( )
- e. The municipal authorities refused to provide her a place for the poor. ( )
- f. Most of the members of 'The Missionaries of Charity' are Indians. ( )
- g. Mother Teresa knew the greatness of the poor. ( )

### Vocabulary

- Form sentences using the following words :  
crisis, project, dignity, hygiene, starving, property, hungry
- Find out the words from the puzzle which come from the clues given below the puzzle.

s	m	s	t	r	e	e	t	a	k
m	e	r	c	y	d	j	g	p	c
s	h	e	l	t	e	r	p	u	h
b	c	t	p	k	s	p	o	t	a
s	l	u	m	s	t	i	m	t	r
d	o	k	c	e	i	s	a	e	i
w	y	c	t	i	t	a	i	r	t
c	h	i	l	d	u	i	z	c	y
d	i	g	n	i	t	y	e	c	k
p	o	o	r	g	e	t	n	t	p

### Clues

- road
- suffering from illness
- a place to live in
- one who is not rich
- kindness, pity
- ability to behave in a calm and respectable way
- son or daughter of a person
- having no money, no food and no shelter
- a house or an area of a city that is in a very bad condition
- to collect money or things to help the poor



## Grammar

Look at the following sentence.



Mother Teresa said, “ I am anxious for people to know of the greatness of the poor.”

In this sentence, the exact words of Mother Teresa are used and they are put in inverted commas.

We can also write the same sentence in a way that the same meaning is conveyed. We do so when we report someone’s speech in our language.

**Example:** Mother Teresa said that she was anxious for people to know of the greatness of the poor.

Rewrite the following sentences as given in the example.

1. Mother Teresa said, “I believe we need the poor as much as they need us.”
2. She said, “They are just as hungry as we are.”
3. An admirer said, “She has no idea where the money will come from.”
4. Sister Franklin said. “This is a real sacrifice.”
5. Mother replied, “I love the people of Kolkata.”

## Writing

In this lesson we come to know about the service done to the society by Mother Teresa. Can you think of any other person who has served the society? Write a paragraph on the work of any such person/organization.

## Activity

A. Listen to the passage and fill in the following information about Mother Teresa.

See Appendix I, Lesson 14.

First Name :

Her Date of birth :

Nationality :

Place of birth :

Occupation :

a) In the beginning

b) Later

Awards received :

a) National

Award

Year

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b) International  
Award

Year

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Work Place:

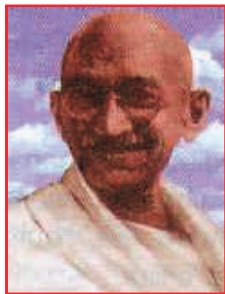
Missionaries of Charity in other countries :

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**B. Look at the pictures of the great persons and say a few sentences about them.**



**Clues-** Father of the nation,  
non-violence, truth,  
independence of India.



Brave, queen, horse riding,  
fought Englishmen



First woman space traveller, interesting features about the  
universe, wanted to use information from space for human  
welfare

**Project**

**Collect pictures of Mother Teresa and "Nirmal Hriday" and  
paste them in your note book.**

