

3

The Praying Hands

- How many brothers and sisters do you have ?
- Do you share your dreams and plans with your siblings?
- Do you help your brothers and sisters?
- Read this story and find out what the two brothers did for each other?

Long, long ago, in a small village near Khetri, lived a family with sixteen children. To feed them, the father, a blacksmith by profession had to toil from 7 in the morning till 10 at night.



Despite their miserable condition, two of the children, Kuldeep Singh and Sudeep Singh had a dream. They both wanted to pursue their talent for art, but they knew well that their father would never be able to send either of them to Jaipur to study at the academy. After many long discussions at night in their crowded bed, the two boys finally worked out a pact. They would toss a coin. The winner would go to Jaipur, while the loser would go down into the nearby mines

and with his earning, support his brother at the academy. After completing his studies in four years, he would support the other brother at the academy, either with sales of his art work or, if necessary, also by labouring in the mines. Next morning, they tossed a coin. Sudeep Singh won the toss and went off to Jaipur. Kuldeep Singh started working in the dangerous mines and for the next four years, financed his brother. Sudeep Singh's work at the academy earned him instant praise. Four years spent at the academy refined his skills and he began to earn considerable fee for his work.

When the young artist returned to his village, the family held a dinner party to celebrate Sudeep Singh's home coming. After the party, Sudeep Singh thanked his beloved brother for the years of sacrifice that had enabled him to fulfil his ambition. His closing words were “And now, Kuldeep, it is your turn”. “All eyes turned towards the far end where Kuldeep Singh sat, tears rolling down his pale face. Shaking his lowered head from side to side, he sobbed and said, “No...no...no..” Finally he rose, wiped the tears from his cheeks and said



softly, “No brother, I cannot go to Jaipur. It is too late for me. Look what four years in the mines have done to my hands! The bones in every hand have been smashed at least once, and lately I have been suffering from arthritis also. I cannot even hold a glass with my right hand, then how I can draw delicate lines on a canvas with a stable hand, using a pen or a brush. No brother... for me it is too late”

Sudeep Singh drew hundreds of wonderful paintings but most people are familiar with only one of his works. It is the painting of Kuldeep Singh's abused hands with palms together and thin fingers stretched skyward. He called his powerful drawing simply, 'Hands' but people from over the world praised this great masterpiece and renamed it, 'The Praying Hands'.

GLOSSARY:

profession	:	a type of job that needs special training or skill
toil	:	to work very hard or for a long time
pursue	:	try to achieve something over a period of time
miserable	:	very unhappy or uncomfortable
despite	:	to show that something happened after prevention, in spite of
sobbed	:	cried and drew in breath noisily
arthritis	:	a disease that causes pain and swelling in the joints of the body
familiar	:	well known
master piece	:	a work of art such as a painting
ambition	:	a strong desire to do or achieve something

Activity - I

A. Choose the suitable alternative:

- I. The black smith worked hard because -
 - a) he was a blacksmith by profession.
 - b) he had to support a large family.
 - c) he lived in a village.
 - d) the condition of children was pitiable.
- II. Both the brothers could not go to the academy for the further study because:
 - a) they were not interested in study.
 - b) they wanted to work at home.
 - c) their family condition was miserable.
 - d) they were lazy.

B. Say whether the following sentences are true or false -

- I. Black smith used to work for three hours. ()
- II. Kuldeep should go down into the mines to fulfill his dream. ()
- III. Sudeep and Kuldeep had ambitions to join academy. ()
- IV. Sudeep has been suffering from back pain. ()
- V. The praying hands is the great masterpiece of Kuldeep. ()

C. Answer the following questions in 10 to 20 words.

- I. Where was the academy situated?
- II. Why did Kuldeep not go to the academy?
- III. Why did Kuldeep have to go in the mines to work?
- IV. What was the reason for the party?
- V. What did both brothers do to fulfil their dreams?

D. Answer the following questions in 20 to 30 words:

- I. Why could the brothers not fulfil their dreams ?
- II. How did Kuldeep help his brother ?

Activity - II

- A. 'Easy' is the opposite of;hard'. Therefore it is an antonym or opposite.**

Find out antonyms for the words below in the box.

miserable, small, started. familiar, necessary

- B. Complete the sentences with the opposite words of the words given in the brackets.**

- I. The Small village khetri is very.....from Jaipur. (far)
- II. They Know that their father was.....to buy a car. (able)
- III. We Should get up.....in the morning. (late)
- IV. Kuldeep Singh.....the toss. (lost)

- C. Correct the mis spelt word.**

1. profesions
2. suporpt
3. repaeted
4. sueffring
5. absued

Activity - III

Read the following sentences carefully:

- I. I have lost my book.
- II. Nazma has not prepared the food yet.
- III. Has Nazma prepared food ?

Has/have + III form of the main verb is used to express an action that has been completed in the immediate past and has its effect in the present.

A. Rewrite the following sentences as directed.

I. They have picked up their bags and are ready to go. (Negative)

.....

II. Deepa has not given her books. (affirmative)

.....

III. He has helped a boy. (negative)

.....

IV. Pinku has not completed his work. (interrogative)

.....

V. She has cleaned the room thoroughly. (negative)

.....

B. Complete the following sentences using has/have along with the correct form of the verbs given in the brackets.

I. Saroj (go) to her school.

II. Manish (pluck) flowers from the garden.

III. The patient (show) a great improvement.

IV. Manoj (finish) his food.

V. I (announce) my marriage.

C. Arrange the words in proper order to make sentences:

not done/he/has/home work/yet/his.

Example :- He has not done his home work yet.

I. has/kicked/he/the ball./

- II. you/prepared/have/recipe/a fine./
- III. you/been/ever/have/to Jaipur./?
- IV. has/not/coloured/the picture/Chiya/.
- V. has/brought/Indra/a video game./

Activity - IV

You have heard about Pannadhai's sacrifice. Tell, how she saved the prince.

Activity - V

**Find out what a black smith does? How is he useful to the society?
Write your experiences in a short paragraph.**

