

# HONESTY

## *Being truthful in what I say and do.*

...A lie has speed, but truth has endurance. - Edgar J. Mohn

...Lying can never save us from another lie. - Vaclav Havel

...Good character requires doing the right thing even when it is costly or risky. - Unknown

**Truthfulness** is seeking truth in words and actions. It is an elevated moral quality and a sign of high character that people should have.

**Honesty** is the human quality of communicating and acting truthfully. It is related to truth as a value.

When we speak we should always speak the truth even if we are in a difficult situation. In our actions also, we should observe truthfulness. We should never hurt anybody through our words and actions. We should be the symbol of truthfulness in our society.

People should always find it easy to trust us. When they see us they should say to themselves "here is the person who is truthful and honest and he never lies. Nobody is troubled by him because of falsehood and lies". They should also say "he always speaks the truth in his words and observes justice in his actions".

If we become honest and truthful in our lives, people will love us and we shall gain respect from them.

## How to be Honest with Others

As we have said before, we should always be truthful and honest and we should not say; this lie is a small lie it will not harm anybody. Because if we get used to telling lies starting with small ones, we also start telling big lies and we don't feel any pain in our conscience.

If we tell lies as comfortably as saying the truth and if we harm and hurt people with our dishonest actions, people despise us and we gain a bad reputation among people. Some people say that sometimes lying saves you, well there is no relief and salvation in lying. It instead puts us into more trouble, thinking about what will happen in case they find out, and opening doors for more lies in an effort to protect the first lie!! So when we resort to lies to get rid of a difficult situation, we end up getting into a worse situation. But when we hold on to truthfulness most of the time, (No!! not most of the time, all the time), I assure you we get rid of troubles.



Let me tell you a story to make you understand what this means:

"Who did this?" asked my teacher. Thirty students tried to think about not only what they had done, but also what our teacher may have found out. "Who did this?" asked my teacher once more. She wasn't really asking, she was demanding an answer. She seldom became

angry, but she was this time. She held up a piece of broken glass and asked, "Who broke this window?" "Oh, oh," I thought. I was the one who broke the window. I had not done it intentionally. It was caused by an errant throw of a basketball.



Why did it have to be me? It wasn't really my fault. If I admitted guilt, I would be in a lot of trouble. How could I be able to pay for a big window like that? "My father is going to be tough on me," I thought.

I didn't want to raise my hand, but some inside force much stronger than me pulled it up. I told the truth. "I did it." I said no more other words. It was hard enough saying what I had. My teacher went out of the class.

I had never seen my teacher beating a student, but I feared she was going to start with me and she was going to take me to office, call my parents and make things really bad for me. I was restless as she opened the door back to class.

"I know how you like basket," she said as she stood in front of the class. "I have sent for a jersey, come to me after class and pick it. **It is yours and you will not be punished as long as you remember that I am not rewarding you for your misdeed, I am rewarding you for your truthfulness.**" This act of hers taught me a lesson I will never forget in my life. I became more

careful when playing but most importantly, I learnt to always tell the truth.

And let me share with you this other story that many of you might have heard before: **The Emperor's Seed. Read attentively.**

There was an emperor in the Far East who was growing old and knew it was time to choose his successor. Instead of choosing one of his assistants or one of his own children, he decided to do something different.

He called all the young people in the kingdom together one afternoon. He said, "Time has come for me to step down and to choose the next emperor. I have decided to choose one of you."

The boys were shocked! But the emperor continued. "I am going to give each one of you a seed today. One seed. It is a very special seed. I want you to go home, plant the seed, water it and come back here one year from today with what you will have grown from this one seed.

I will then judge the plants that you bring to me, and the one I choose will be the next emperor of the kingdom! Our kingdom values environmental conservation and we are proud of the several forests we have planted. The next emperor should be one who values and can protect our environment!"



There was one boy named Ling who was there that day and he, like the others, received his seed. He went home and excitedly told his mother the whole story. She helped him get a pot and some planting soil, and he planted the seed and watered it carefully.

Every day he would water it and watch to see if it had grown. After about three weeks, some of the other youths began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow. Ling kept going home and checking his seed, but nothing ever grew. Three weeks, four weeks, five weeks went by. Still nothing.

By now others were talking about their plants but Ling didn't have a plant, and he felt like a failure. Six months went by, still nothing in Ling's pot.

He just knew he had killed his seed. Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. Ling didn't say anything to his friends. He just kept watering, adding manure, and waiting for his seed to grow.

A year finally went by and all the youths of the kingdom brought their plants to the emperor for inspection. Ling told his mother that he wasn't going to take an empty pot. But she encouraged him to go, and to take his pot, and to be honest about what happened. Ling felt sick to his stomach, but he knew his mother was right. He took his empty pot to the palace.

When Ling arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by all the other youths. They were beautiful, in all shapes and sizes. Ling put his empty pot on the floor and many of the other boys laughed at him. A few felt sorry for him and just said, "Hey, nice try." When the emperor arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted the young people. Ling just tried to hide in a corner at the back. "Oh my, what great plants, trees and flowers you have grown," said the emperor.

"Today, one of you will be appointed the next emperor!"

All of a sudden, the emperor spotted Ling at the back of the room with his empty pot. He ordered his guards to bring him to the front. Ling was terrified. When Ling got to the front, the Emperor asked his name. "My name is Ling," he replied. All the kids were laughing and making fun of him. The emperor looked at Ling, and then announced to the crowd, "Behold your new emperor! His name is Ling!" Ling couldn't believe it.

Then the emperor explained; "I gave everyone here a special seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave all of you boiled seeds which would not grow. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you. Ling was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new emperor!"



Always be honest. Lies damage the relationship between you and your friends, your parents, or your teachers and destroy the trust they have placed in you.

Lying about something ALWAYS makes the original problem worse. And telling the truth, even when it's hard, proves that much as you may have made a mistake, you are taking responsibility for it. That's an awesome character that we should praise.