

Balvikas: Topic 2
Human Values: Truth
Honest Conduct

Honest Conduct is the theme for this week. This overlaps with another of Baba's Human Values; dharma (duty or right conduct) as you will see. But more about that in the lessons to follow.

First we need to understand what honest or true conduct is. Honest conduct means to act in a way that is truthful. Below is a list of factors that explain what honest conduct is. In you groups explain what each factor means and then choose someone to give a presentation on the meaning of each factor. (You can use examples)

Group 1

Not doing anything that would cheat somebody else

Keeping a promise

Not taking things that are not yours

Group 2

Not admitting you know something when you do

Doing a duty or task in the proper manner

Not taking the praise for something someone else had done by saying that you had done it

Below are examples of situations. Choose the answers to the questions and then as a group you will explain your answers to the rest of the Balvikas.

Group 1

1) You go to a shop to buy some sweets. You pay for the sweets and the shopkeeper gives you some change back. Upon walking out of the shop you realise that the shopkeeper has given you too much change. What should you do which shows that you have acted honestly and why?

2) You are walking along the street. You see a man take an old lady's handbag. The man runs off and he is now gone too far for you to catch up with him. Should you

- a) Carry on walking and pretend you didn't see anything? or
- b) Help the old lady? or
- c) Telephone the police? or
- d) Help the old lady and telephone the police?

Explain why your answer shows that you have acted honestly.

Group 2

1) You are sitting in an exam. You cannot answer one of the questions on the paper. You notice that the person sitting next to you is writing a lot and you know that she is clever. Should you

- a) Look over at his paper and copy off him or
- b) Do the best you can from what you know and carry on working on your own

Explain why your answer is the most honest thing to do.

What would be the most honest thing to do if you saw somebody else copying off another person.

2) You are at school and your friend is showing off his new pencils he bought from Disney World. You have wanted to go to Disney world for ages and you would love to have one of those pencils. You know that he has so many of those pencils that if one went missing he wouldn't notice. What should you do?

- a) Take a pencil and tell him you have taken it
- b) Take a pencil and don't tell him you have taken it
- c) Don't take a pencil

3) Below is a list of people and descriptions of them doing different jobs. Choose which ways of doing the same job are more honest and explain why.

Lawyers

John is a barrister (lawyer) and does his job arguing each case using all the facts he can find. Mary is also a barrister. She however doesn't bother to research the case she argues and makes up the evidence when she is in court. Who is more honest and why; Mary or John?

Shopkeepers

Geeta is a shopkeeper. Sometimes in her shop she has a sale. She reduces the price of the items she sells in these sales. Govind is also a shopkeeper and he also has sales. However just before he starts the sale Govind increases the price of the items he is about to put on sale. This way the items look like they are cheaper in the sale when they are not. Who is more honest Govind or Geeta? Explain why.

Answers and Notes