

THE UNHAPPY STONE

Where Happiness?

Intent of the Story:

- ✓ *To realize that happiness is within us, not outside us*
- ✓ *Happiness is neither here or there. It's every where*
- ✓ *Happiness is in where we are and in what we are.*
- ✓ *The key to happiness is in the acceptance of what we are and what we have.*

Target Audience:

Primarily small kids.
Yet, mean for all ages.

THE STORY

Once upon a time, a little stone live in a beautiful garden in the company of beautiful flowers. Instead of being happy with his lot, he grumbled from morn to sunset. He used to say: "I am fed up of living in this garden with you flowers. Your company is so dull and uninteresting! I want to live on the road where all the fun and excitement are." When the flowers heard this talk they were very, very sad.

One day, a lad came to play in the garden. Seeing our stone, absent-mindedly, he began kicking it. Finally, the stone landed on the roadside. "Hurrah! I an off to see the world" the stone said, "Bye, bye, you silly flowers."

Soon he found himself near a pile of fierce looking black stones. With a smile in his face, he greeted them: "Hullo! Good morning! I'm so thrilled to be here. My name is..." One grumpy stone interrupted him: "Do be quiet! Do not talk nonsense. My head is paining with all these noises! I am not in a mood for your stupid talk." The little stone was highly offended. He turned to see who he could make friends with. Suddenly he screamed: "Ouch... ooh... ooh... my poor back! Ouch. What was that horrid thing that walked over my back?" Tauntingly the black stones remarked "Oh, that was just a cart, you will get used to them after a few hundreds go over you."

The little stone exclaimed: "What? A few hundreds? Ahh... ohaoo... oohh! Oh dear, I am getting choked. What's this? Laughing, all the stones replied: "That's smoke. Do not get upset, very soon you will become black like us," The little stone broke crying: "This is not what I expected on the roadside! This is terrible! It's unbearable!

Our little stone was kept busy, the whole night long dodging vehicles and wiping the soot from his eyes. That night, he could not get a wink of sleep. In the morning, he was so tired, and the thought of another day made him nervous.

Just then, along came the same boy, and believe it or not, he kicked the little stone back into the garden where he had come from. His friends, the flowers, were overjoyed to see him again. The little stone said to them: "Oh, how happy I am to be back! Never again will I go to live on the main street. Forgive me for having treated you so shabbily in the past. I am very happy in the garden in your company."

An adaptation of the story "The Little Stone" of Jennifer Utarid

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION.

(You may put your replies in writing)

1. Why was the Little Stone so unhappy in the garden with the flowers? What was his problem?
2. Did the Little Stone find happiness in the road were all excitement was? Why?
3. What did the Little Stone think 'excitement' was?
4. What do the carts and smoke of the road stand for in real life?
5. Did the Little Stone finally find happiness? Where? Why?
6. Does the story of the 'Unhappy Stone' teach us something? What's that?
7. Can we be really happy? How? Where can we find happiness? Why?
8. By and large are people happy in the place they are? Why?
9. Has God made us for "happiness" or "unhappiness"? Then, what or who spoils the happiness of so many people?
10. Kindly, list the main obstacles that stand on the way to happiness?
11. Are you really happy with yourself? Why?
12. Would mind to share with us what is there still lacking for you to be completely happy?
13. Do the ads and the commercials we see help or hinder our happiness? How?

POINTS FOR A SHORT TALK OR INPUT`

- God made us for happiness.
- God wants us to find happiness in the place he has put us.
- God gives each one of us our place through the circumstances of our life. God speaks to us through the events of daily life.
- It is only in my 'my' place that I have to search for happiness.
- To search for happiness elsewhere spells disaster.
- Actually speaking "happiness" is within us, not without us.
- If we are carry unhappiness within us, we shall be unhappy everywhere.
- We cannot run away from ourselves.
- One of the great obstacles for happiness is to entertain wrong expectations. The Little Stone expected to be happy on the roadside.
- Acceptance of oneself and of circumstances of his life is the key to happiness.
- The ads and commercial propaganda we' are subjected to, spoil our happiness We are made to believe that in order to be happy, we have to have this or that, to be here or there, to like this or like that!

EXPLAIN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES

1. Beggars are not choosers

2. Disillusionment is the child of unrealistic expectations
3. Do not allow others or the external events of life rob you from your inner joy.
4. Don't place your happiness on things or on someone outside you..
5. Happiness is an insight job.
6. If you cannot have what you like, like what you have.
7. Love what your have, that's all you have.
8. None but you can make yourself happy or unhappy.