

WHO BROKE THE UNION?

What threats and violence could not,

greed did!

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Intent of the story

- ✓ *Greed may overpower the noblest causes*
- ✓ *Greed is the root cause of all evils.*

A very rich Landlord who owned hundreds of acres of land. was a heartless man. He, mercilessly, exploited his daily-wage winners and bonded laborers.

Finally, led by a zealous leader, the farmers organized themselves into a disciplined "Farmers' Union" The Landlord thundered, threatened, terrorized, victimized, and assaulted his men. He wanted, at any cost, to break the union. But all in vain! At last, the Landlord had to give in and pay the laborers just wages.

The wicked Landlord, however, by hook or by crook, was still determined to break the union. One day, he called his workers and, very shrewdly, told to them: "Dear friends, I realized at last how badly I treated you, how I exploited you. I am very sorry. Now I changed my mind, I want to make amends, so I have decided to donate to you, all my properties; my fields, my houses, store rooms, oxen, tractors and wells. Kindly call a general meeting of all the union members, and decide yourselves how you want me to divide my properties amongst you."

The farmers wonder struck with such news couldn't believe their ears. Immediately, they called a general meeting of the union to discuss how those large properties and assets should be divided among themselves.

Unfortunately, from the very start of the meeting quarrels and dissensions arose among them. . You could hear them shouting at each other and yelling at the top of their voices: One said: "I want the well!" Another shouted "I want that big field!" Still others clamored, we want that big house! And we, the storerooms! And we the oxen, and we the tractors! and so on.

The meeting ended in a fiasco. All the farmers went home angry, shouting, abusing and raising their fists to one another. Complacently, the Landlord was watching from a distance. Needless to say, that very day, the union broke and the Landlord s exploitation went on.\

POINTS FOR REFLECTION

- As long as the cooperation and union among the laborers lasted, the manager could not break the "Farmers' Union"
- Even threats, intimidation and violence did not affect them at all
- Yet, what threats and violence and intimation could not, greed did .

- Greed, is the worst enemy of peace, unity and concord among peoples and nations, even among the closest family members and friends.
- Recall some events and experiences in your life or in the life of others that confirm the teaching of this story.

PONDER THE FOLLOWING PROVERBS

- Greed for money is the root of all evils
- What mighty might cannot destroy soft greed does
- Greed breaks the strongest bonds.
- Many a good family stays united until the Parents die!
- Greed blinds.
- Greed makes ravenous wolves out of harmless sheep.
- Our worst enemy is a greedy friend.
- There is enough wealth in the world for everybody's need
- 'but not for everybody's greed.