

PLUS TWO (XII) UNIT 2 LESSON 3

THE HOUR OF TRUTH

Corruption curtails the development of our country

Corruption is one of the social evils that prevails in our country. It is high time we fought against it. If we understand the real factors influencing the presence of corruption and its consequences, it will enable to eradicate this global threat.

Corruption mainly results from the need or desire to get more money. Money rules the world. Earlier days bribe was given for wrong things to be done. But now we are forced to give even for right things. It is because people feel that their income is not enough to satisfy their needs. Leading a luxurious life has become a basic need now. Also the the relationship among govt officials, politicians and criminals is another reason. The people find it easy to make things done and escape tax by bribing. As a result, the corrupted officials make the rules more strict so that they can extort more bribes. Moreover lack of commitment to society, less significance given to moral and spiritual values in our education system contribute corruption. It affects our economy by lowering the growth and development of our nation also.

Some measures should be adopted to prevent this factor from deteriorating our society. We must understand that it is a serious illness that worsens our economic development. Strict laws be enacted and special courts for speedy justice, timely legal action against the law breakers and anti-corruption policies should be made and being better paid also will enable to reduce corruption considerably. Such things will

create a corruption free environment. Apart from this the public be made aware of this and they must act vigilant. United effort will make our nation devoid of any such hindrances for economic development and step towards heights of glory.

THE HOUR OF TRUTH

Character of Baldwin

The Hour of Truth by Percival wilde is a psychological study of the corrupting influence of money on people. Mr.Robert Baldwin is the main character in the story. He is very just and honest.He is also sincere in his work.He is working as the secretary of the bank president, Mr.John Gresham. He represents an everyday American man who works for a living and his salary is not good enough to support his family. Still he is very upright in his thoughts and deeds.

The strength of Baldwin's honesty is evident when Mr.Gresham , Robert's Boss is accused of mishandling bank's money. Mr.Gresham requests Baldwin to say just three words- 'I don't remember' to escape from the crime.He also offers him one hundred thousand dollars as a reward for it. Though all tries to make Baldwin accept the money, he is the same as he has been known for being true to himself. He is not ready not only to accept bribe also to tell a lie. Moreover it makes Gresham confess his crime. Baldwin is rewarded for his plain and moral character. He gets a better job at a different bank for his honesty and frankness.

Thus the story presents the contemporary theme of greed and its effects and also how one can overcome such corrupting things by fixing oneself as constant and virtuous personage through the role played by Baldwin.