



মণিগোবিন্দোৰ ডেপুটী নক্সাৰাংল (ডেপুটী)

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)**

Government of Manipur

## **CLASS X**

### **ENGLISH LITERATURE READER**

#### **CHAPTER 5 - ON SAYING 'PLEASE'**

**(A.G. GARDINER)**

#### **NOTES**

##### **THE AUTHOR**

Alfred George Gardiner (1865–1946), a British journalist and author, is highly regarded in the literary arena. From 1915 he contributed to The Star under the pseudonym (pen name) Alpha of the Plough. The story behind the choosing of the name is interesting. At the time, The Star had several anonymous essayists whose pseudonyms were the names of stars. Invited to choose the name of a star as a pseudonym he chose the name of the brightest (alpha) star in the constellation 'the Plough'. His essays are uniformly elegant, graceful and humorous. His uniqueness lay in his ability to teach the basic truths of life in an easy and amusing manner.

##### **SUMMARY**

On saying please by A.G. Gardiner is a short story about civility, courtesy, duty, integrity and control. The author is exploring the benefits of having good manners.

In his short story, "On Saying 'Please,'" A.G. Gardiner discusses legal regulations versus social norms. Although no one is legally mandated to be courteous and well-mannered, it is generally expected of society, or at least wished for, to act in a polite manner. He describes a situation in which a man physically assaulted another man for refusing to say "please," and how, although society may agree that the man was rude, and perhaps many people would have been just as angry, this recourse was beyond necessary, unacceptable, and illegal.



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Politeness, Gardiner believes, makes social interactions run smoothly and positively influence the perception that others have of a person, whereas rudeness invites negativity and more rudeness. If people became physically aggressive every time they did not think someone else was being polite enough, then nothing except violence would ever occur. Everyone would be assaulting each other continuously.

Unkind word often leads to mental injuries. Sometimes these mental injuries lead to physical injuries to others. Here the lift-man was so annoyed with the officer who did not say please to him that he threw him out of lift. But though the officer was disrespectful to him but physical violence can't be encouraged. In reality it is better for a person to overcome how they might feel having been slighted morally and to take the higher moral ground.

In the lesson, "On Saying 'Please' ", A. G. Gardiner discusses legal regulations and social norms of an incident. Being courteous and well-mannered is not legally mandated but still it is generally expected in our society or at least the most wished for.

A.G. Gardiner believes that people must learn to be as polite as possible, but also to accept impoliteness when it occurs, as a part of life.



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