



Lesson- 8

IDGAH

Summary: The story is about a boy called Hamid who was four or five years old living with his grandmother Amina, who became a mother to him and the only shelter for him in the wide world since his parents died.

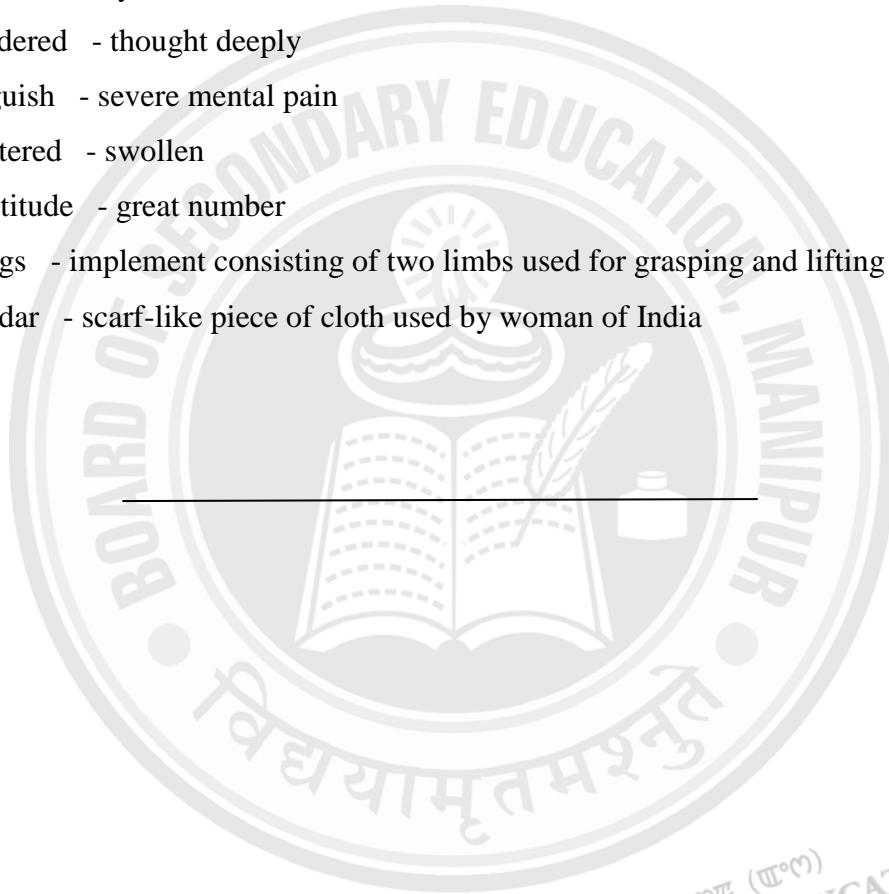
It was the festival of Id, after thirty days of fasting for the month of Ramjan. Everything looked beautiful and joyous, and everyone was happy, the children were the happiest. The children of the village planned to go to the village fair with their fathers, but Hamid had no one except his grandmother. So, Amina was afraid to send Hamid alone. There wouldn't be anyone to look after him. And also Amina didn't have much money to give also to Hamid. After collecting all the coins in her possession she only had three paise to give. Hamid assured Amina that nothing would happen to him and went to the fair with some children. They saw Idgah, many people offered prayers. There was no distinction between the rich and the poor. All the people became united by a single thread of brotherly love and affection.

Hamid and his friends went to toy shops. His friend Mahmood bought a toy soldier dressed in Khaki with a red turban on his head. Mohsin bought a water carrier. Nure bought a toy lawyer since he wanted to be a lawyer. They went to sweet shops, and bought candy and gulabjamuns but Hamid didn't. Then came the shop of household wares, where Hamid saw some tongs. He remembered his grandmother burning her hands while making rotis because she didn't have a pair of tongs. He thought how happy she will be if he bought them for her. He asked the shopkeeper the price of a pair of tongs, but it cost more than three paise, which Hamid had in his pocket. The shopkeeper denied Hamid's bargain but the shopkeeper later accepted the three paise Hamid had, and gave the pair of tongs. All his friends laughed at him when they saw the tongs on his hands. Hamid told his friends that all their toys were made up of clay and soon all of it would break and that they had spent their money on useless things. As soon as, all his friends reached home, their toys broke one way or another. When Hamid reached home, his grandmother saw the pair of tongs in his hands, she was surprised and asked how much he had spent on it. Amina was angry because instead of buying something to eat, Hamid had bought the pair of tongs. It was almost evening and he hadn't eaten

anything. Hamid reminded his grandmother of how she burns her fingers daily while making roti. He did not think about his needs instead he wished that his grandmother did not burn her hand while making rotis. Amina's anger melted when she heard those words. She praised him by saying he was selfless and considerate. Tears rolled down her cheeks. By spreading her chadar, she showered blessings on her grandson, and Hamid lay blissfully on her lap.

Glossary

- Mellow - soft
- Hectic - busy and excited
- Pondered - thought deeply
- Anguish - severe mental pain
- Blistered - swollen
- Multitude - great number
- Tongs - implement consisting of two limbs used for grasping and lifting things
- Chadar - scarf-like piece of cloth used by woman of India



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