

## **A good character**

How hard it is to develop a good character and to put it into use! This is a little story from India: For many years a poor woman attended a weekly market with her small child. She was carrying her child on the back to make better use of her hands while shopping. On the way home, the woman saw her child playing with a coconut. It was obvious for her that the child had stolen the coconut.

Instead of putting the child's attention to the fact that the coconut had not been paid for she was pleased with the skills of her son and laughed about it. Again and again, the child would steal snacks from the market, without the mother paying attention to it. The child became a man and his behaviour remained the same. He stole and cheated. One day the man stood before the Court. During a visit of his mother in the prison a conflict broke out. The young man had blamed his mother for his situation and killed her. Not every story is cruel like this, but the key message is clear and direct. A good character is a good friend in life and protects us from sorrow and suffering.

- If we lose contact to doing good, we will leave law and order through selfishness.
- If we lose contact to love and truth, we will leave the unity in God through selfishness.
- If we lose contact to peace and non-violence, we will lose joy and humility in God's creation through selfishness.

A man's character is reflected in his daily activity. If truth, order, peace and love are reflecting in his life he will be more happy and satisfied. His aim is unity in God.

Character training is a responsible and important task for all people to live in peace and love. Human values are the food, good character the expression of love.

May we be people awakening through love, thus realizing the greatness and the peace of God!

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