

Sub-Eng. Reader

Lesson - 1

Letters From A Father To His Daughter

Continue - - - - -

Summary

Nehruji says to his daughter that he must not hero-
-nize. In your history books you read of great periods
in the life of nations. We read of great men and
women and great deeds performed. Ordinary men and
women are not usually heroic. We think of their
daily bread and butter of their children.

The year of your birth was one of those great
years of history, when a great leader, with a heart
full of love and sympathy for the poor and
suffering, made his people, write a noble chapter of
history. This year Lenin started his great revolution
which has changed the face of Russia and Siberia.

Today in India, Bapuji is such a great leader
whose message steals into the hearts of India's
men and women.

In India today we are making history and we
are fortunate to see this happen, and take some
part in the great drama.

P. T. O

Assignment

1. Write meaning of underlined words.
2. Answer the following questions:
 - (i) Describe the appearance of the man in the story written by Hsien Tsang.
 - (ii) What, according to Nehruji, is the best way to find out the truth?
 - (iii) How are great people different from ordinary people?
 - (iv) Who inspired people of India to strive hard for freedom and law?
 - (v) What should one remember while doing anything for one's Country?
 - (vi) Why did Nehruji consider Indira and himself lucky?
 - (vii) Lenin brought a revolution in
 - (a) India
 - (b) Russia
 - (c) England
 - (viii) Write four things that Nehruji tried to teach his daughter through his letters.

Note: Do all work in your copy / A4 sheets.

I must not therefore sermonize. But what am I to do then? A letter can hardly take the place of a talk; at best it is a one sided affair. So, if I say anything that sounds like good advice, do not take it as if it were a bad pill to swallow. Imagine that I have made a suggestion to you for you to think over, as if we really were having a talk.



In your history books you read of great periods in the life of nations. We read of great men and women and great deeds performed and sometimes in our dreams and reveries we imagine ourselves doing brave deeds like the heroes and heroines of old. Ordinary men and women are not usually heroic. They think of their daily bread and butter, of their children, of their household worries and the like. But a time comes when a whole people become full of faith for a great cause, and then even simple, ordinary men and women become heroes, and history becomes stirring and epoch-making. Great leaders have something in them which inspires a whole people and makes them do great deeds.

The year you were born in, 1917, was one of those great years of history when a great leader, with a heart full of love and sympathy for the poor and suffering, made his people write a noble and never-to-be forgotten chapter of history. In the very month you were born, Lenin started his great revolution which has changed the face of Russia and Siberia.



And today, in India, another great leader, also full of love for all who suffer and passionately eager to help them, has inspired our people to great endeavour and noble sacrifice so that they may again be free and the starving and the poor and the oppressed may have their burdens removed from them. Bapuji lies in prison but the magic of his message

steals into the hearts of India's millions, and men and women, and even little children come out of their little shells and become India's soldiers of freedom.

In India today we are making history and you and I are fortunate to see this happen before our eyes and to take some part-ourselves in the great drama. How shall we bear ourselves in this great movement, what part shall we

play in it? I cannot say what part will fall to our lot; but, whatever it may be, let us remember that we should do nothing which may bring discredit to our cause or dishonour to our people. If we are to be India's soldiers, we have India's honour in our keeping, and that honour is a sacred trust.

I have written to you a very long letter. And yet there is much I would like to tell you. How can a letter contain it?

You are fortunate, I have said, in being a witness to this great struggle for freedom that is going on in our country. You are also very fortunate in having a very brave and wonderful little woman for your mother; if you are ever in doubt or in trouble, you cannot have a better friend.

Good-bye, little one, and may you grow up into a brave soldier in India's service.

With all my love and good wishes.

Jawaharlal Nehru

(Slightly abridged)
