

(No.4) An Important Life Lesson

People usually praise those who donate money to charity or give food to the homeless, thinking that they are doing good things and helping people. While these deeds are good, they have become too common, and they sometimes have adverse effects. It makes us rethink the true meaning of good deeds. Something happened to me two months ago that really taught me an important life lesson and made me reconsider the true meaning of good deeds.

I still remember it well. It was a Friday after school. I was listening to music on my way home. Suddenly, I saw a pale beggar with a board saying: "My daughter has a serious disease and I have used all my money for the medical expenses. I hope you can have sympathy for my poor little girl who is still suffering from the disease". I didn't believe his story, so I just walked past him and bought some snacks. This always made me happy, especially after such a long day of studying at school.

But wonderful moments never last long and on that day, everything changed in a second. While I was crossing the road, a big man quickly walked towards me. I stared at him, worried that he was going to bump into me. Seconds later, we collided and I fell down. As I held on to my box of snacks, ketchup splashed all over my school uniform. It was terrible! The big man looked very guilty and apologised to me continuously while helping me up. After I stood up, I looked at my dirty uniform but I could only said, "It's ok." What else could I do? The man walked away, and as I tried to wipe my dress clean, I realised that my wallet was missing. The man was a thief! Trying to hold back my tears, I looked around in all directions along the street but it was no use, of course. He had already gone! I felt helpless and started sobbing on the corner of the street.

After a while, someone patted me gently on my shoulder. I slowly looked up and saw a wad of wrinkled money. It was the beggar I met early that day. He said, "This is all I have. I think it can help you. Take it!" His old face gave me a kind smile. At that moment, I just burst into tears, for my ignorance, and for his kindness. But he was shocked. "I - I - I just want to h - h - help you, c - c - oz my daughter is the same age as - s - s you, I - I just want you to be h - h - happy. " He stuttered. I felt really guilty as I thought he had been a fake. So I wiped my tears and said, "Thank you for your kindness, but I can't accept it. Just take the money to pay your daughter's bills. I am fine." He nodded and seemed a little embarrassed. What he told me next is one of the best life lessons I have learned so far. "You're a good girl. Please always remember to be kind to everyone you meet and help people whenever you can. Although it may seem insignificant to you, it can make a very big difference in their lives. Always remember, never hold on to someone else's bad deeds. It will let you become just like that person." Then he turned around and disappeared into the crowd.

The beggar gave me the true meaning of goodness: good people have altruistic behaviour. They aren't mean to others who are in need even when they are also in need. Also, good people spread love to the world. He taught me an invaluable lesson and I will always remember his wise words.