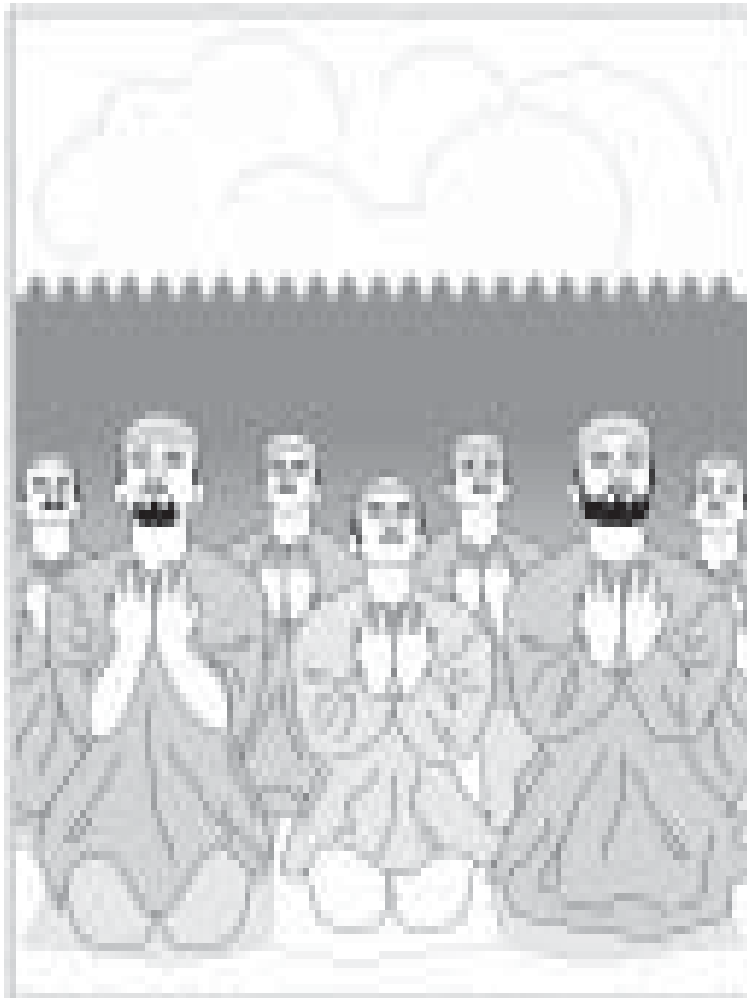


The Story describes an orphan's love for his grandparent. how he overcomes his childish desires and spends the little money he has to buy something of use for his grandmother.



Id has come a full thirty days after Ramzan. What a beautiful morning it is! The green fields, the blue sky, the dazzling¹ sunshine, all seem to be celebrating the advent of Id.

The entire village is full of hustle and bustle². Preparations to go to the Idgah are in full swing. Someone's kurta lacks a button. He runs to his neighbour's house to borrow a needle and thread. Someone else's leather shoes have grown too hard to wear. He runs to the oil press for some oil to grease and soften the leather.

The bullocks are being hastily given their fodder because it will be afternoon by the time folks return from the Idgah. It is a good three miles from the village, to say nothing of the time that will be taken in meeting and chatting with scores of people.

The boys are the most excited. Some of them had fasted once, during the month of Ramzan, but only till noon. Others hadn't even done that. But it did not matter. Fasts were for the aged. For youngsters, Id was the important thing and today the long-awaited day had finally arrived. Why wasn't everyone hurrying to go to the Idgah? The boys didn't care if there was milk and sugar in the house to cook seviyan, the Id speciality. They were only concerned with eating it!

1- bright light 2 - busy and noisy

They jingled the coins in their pockets, took them out to count them and replaced them joyfully. Mehmood had twelve pice. Mohsin had fifteen ! with this treasure they were going to buy countless things - toys, sweets bugles, balls and what not.

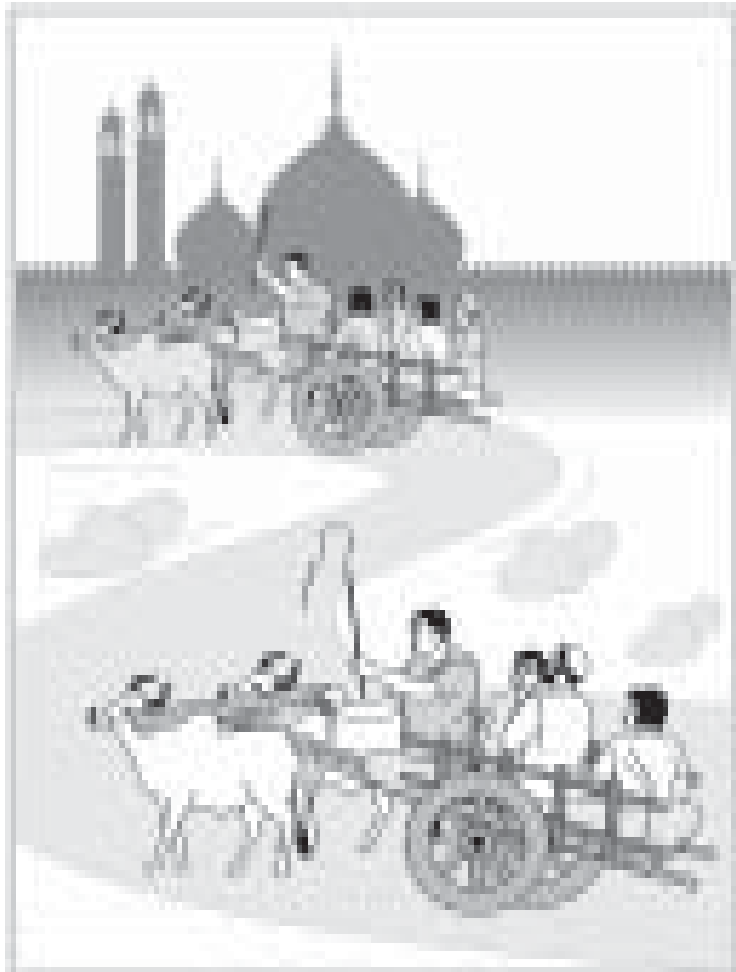
The happiest boy of all was Hamid. He was a poor ill-clad, skinny child of four or five whose father had died last year of cholera, and whose mother had wasted away and died of God knows what disease. Now Hamid slept in the lap of his old grandmother Amena and was as happy as he had always been. He believed his father would return with sackfuls³ of money. His mother, who had gone to Allah's abode, would come back with the loveliest gifts for Hamid. Then he will have much more than Mohsin, Noorey and Sammi !

Hamid runs into the house and tells his grandmother not to worry. He will be among the first to return from the Idgah. Amena's heart is aching. How can she let her little one go alone ? What if he gets lost ? How will a mite like him trudge⁴ three miles barefoot ? she cannot go with him. A poor woman like her has yet to collect the ingredients for making seviyan. And borrowing takes much more time than buying.

The villagers finally leave for the Idgah, the children running ahead. Hamid is with them. Closer to the town, they walk past the houses and the gardens of the rich, the law court, the college, the club, the police station, all viewed by the children with the greatest curiosity.

As they approach the Idgah, they catch up with other groups of people heading the same way, people in tongas, people in cars, people on foot, all brightly deressed and agog⁵ with anticipation.

Suddenly they spot the Idgah. It is shaded by tamarind trees and its cemented floor is covered with sheets. There are rows upon rows of worshippers stretching well beyond the courtyard of the mosque. Along with other newcomers, the people from Hamid's village take their place in the back rows, after washing their hands and feet. Wealth and status do not matter here. In the eyes of Allah, all men are equal. What a beautiful sight it is - the simultaneous⁶ bowing of thousands of heads in prayer. So many worshippers standing erect together, then bowing down together and sitting on their knees. What an awe - inspiring and heart - warming sight it is!



3- amount contained in large bags 4- walk hevely 5- excited 6- dressed

The namaz is over, people meet and embrace each other. Then they head for the toy shops and the sweet shops. The villagers are as excited as little children. One pice for a ride on the swing, taking you up into the air, then hurling you down to earth. And one pice for twenty-five rides on the roundabout. Mehmood, Mohsin, Noorey and Sammi climb on to the wooden horses and camels and go round and round joyfully. Hamid stands apart. He has only three pice. He cannot afford to spend one-third to his precious money on a mere roundabout.

His friends dismount⁷ and run across to the row of toy shops. Mehmood buys a soldier in a khaki uniform and red turban, with a rifle on his shoulder, ready for action. Mohsin buys a smiling water-carrier, ready to sprinkle water on dusty roads. Noorey acquires a lawyer. How impressive he seems attired⁸ in a black gown, with a gold watch-chain and a fat law book in his hand. Sammi buys a sturdy washerwoman.

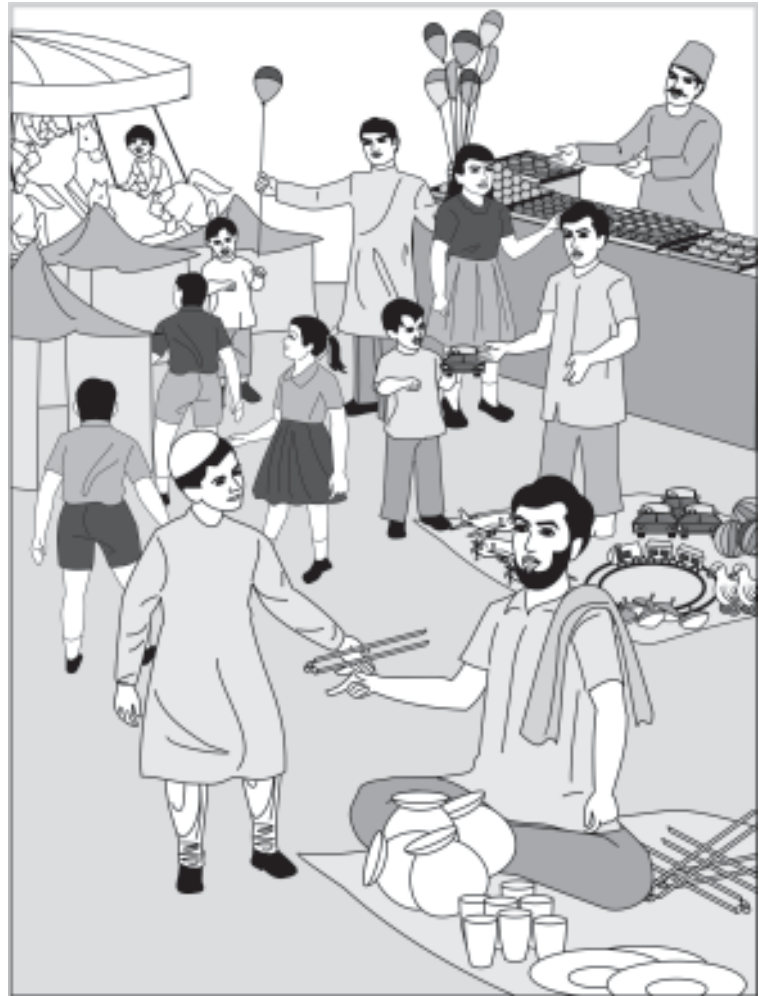
All these toys cost two pice each, too expensive for Hamid to buy. They are only of clay, he tells his friends “One fall and they’ll break”.

Yet he looks at the toys with envious eyes and wants to play with them. But boys are not very generous, especially when their toys are new, Hamid’s desire remains unfulfilled.

From the toy shops, the boys move to the shops selling mithai. Here one of the boys buys reweries, the other buys gulab-jamuns and a third buys sohan halwa. Hamid buys nothing. He has only three pice to spend. But he cannot help eyeing the sweets in the hands of his friends.

“Here Hamid” says Mohsin, have some of my reweries.” He stretches out his hand Mohsin pops the reweries into his own mouth and smirks⁹. The others laugh. Hamid is crestfallen¹⁰.

After the mithai shops are some hardware stores and some shops selling jewellery. The boys are not attracted to these. They move on. But Hamid stops before a pile of chimtas, iron tongs. His grandmother doesn’t have a pair of tongs. Each time she makes chapatis, she burns her fingers. How



happy she will be if he buys a pair of tongs for her! There will be one useful thing in the house. Toys are worthless in comparison. You tire of them or they get broken.

Hamid looks at his friends who are all drinking sherbet at a nearby stall. How greedy they are ! They have eaten so many sweets and not even given me one. And then they say, ‘Play with us, do this for us, do that for us’. Now I’ll see how anyone asks me to do anything ! Let them eat their sweets. They’ll break out in boils, and pimples. I won’t.

When Amma sees the chimta I have bought for her, she will shower me with a thousand blessings. She will run and show the chimta to our neighbours. The whole village will talk about it. Everyone will say, “What a good boy Hamid is” !

If these boys want to laugh at me for buying a chimta, let them. when Abbajan and Ammi come with lots of toys and sweets then I’ll be the one who will laugh.

Hamid asks the shopkeeper, “How much is this chimta”? “Six Pice”, is the reply.

Hamid’s heart sinks but he says boldly, “Three pice, Take it or leave it”

To his surprise, the shopkeeper gives the chimta to him. Hamid struts up to his friends with the chimta on his shoulder.

“What will you do with this, you fool ?” laughs Mohsin, Hamid flings his tongs on the ground and challenges Mohsin to throw down his clay water carrier in the same way. Mohsin cannot. The toy will break.

“Do you think this chimta is some kind of toy?” sneers Mehmood.

“Why not ?” says Hamid, put it on your shoulder, it becomes a gun. Hold it in your hand, it becomes the tongs singing fakirs use instead of cymbals. One hit from my chimta and all yours toys will break. But none of them can harm my lion- hearted warrior !”

Sammi is impressed. He offers to exchange the tambourine¹¹ he bought for eight pice with Hamid’s tongs. But Hamid refuses. His tongs have fascinated all the boys. But what can they do ? They have no



9-Scornful -showing contempt 10- Unceasingly - going on all the time.

money left, and anyway, it is time to return home. Hamid is a clever fellow ! Now his friends know why he didn't spend his money earlier.

“Your chimta can't fill water like my water carrier can!” says Mohsin desperately trying to regain his superiority.

“One shout from my tongs and your water- carrier will come running to his door,” asserts Hamid.

Mohsin has no answer. Mehmood comes to his rescue, “What if we get caught for doing something wrong ? We'll definitely need Noorey's lawyer then.”

For a moment Hamid is nonplussed. Then he says, “But who will arrest us ?”

Mehmood's soldier will,” says Noorey confidently.

“That poor creature ?” Hamid's tone is scornful¹², “Come on then let's see who is stronger- My chimta or Mehmood's soldier !”

Mehmood is defeated but he tries again, “Your chimta will burn his face in the fire everyday,” he jeers at Hamid.

“So what” says Hamid promptly, “Only the courageous can jump into a fire. Your toys will hide in the house.”

Mehmood tries again, “Our lawyer will sit in style on a chair. Your tongs will only lie on the kitchen floor”

“My tongs won't lie on the floor, They'll knock your lawyer down and stuff his law down his throat !” Hamid's rejoinder is rather wild but somehow it clears the field for him. Now no one has anything to say. Hamid's chimta is the undisputed champion.

They boys are anxious to handle the champion. In exchange they offer their toys to Hamid for his examination. What beautiful toys they are ! “I was only pulling your leg”, says Hamid. “How can a pair of tongs compare with such life – like toys ?”

But the boys are not convinced. No one, not even Hamid, can now challenge the superiority of the tongs.

On the way home, Mehmood feels hungry, His father buys him bananas. He shares them only with Hamid.

It is eleven O'Clock. Those who had gone to the Idgah have just returned. The village is agog with excitement. Mohsin's younger sister runs to him and grabs the water carrier from his hand. As she jumps for joy, the toy slips from her grasp, falls and breaks into pieces Brother and sister come to blows. Both howl. Both are smacked¹² by their angry mother.

Noorey fixes a seat for his lawyer, seats him on it and fans him with a bamboo leaf. Is it a gust of wind or a blow from the fan that throws the lawyer to the ground ? That is the end of him. Mehmood's soldier survives but manages to break a leg while guarding the village. Mehmood breaks his other leg so that the poor man can at least sit and do his duty in comfort.

Hamid's grandmother Amena runs to him as soon as she hears his voice and takes him lovingly in

11- dismount - to get off a horse, breyele, or motorcycle.

her lap. She is startled to see the tongs. Hamid tells her he bought the tongs for three pice.

What a peculiar child ! He remained hungry and thirsty the whole morning and all he could find to buy was a pair of tongs ! She upbraids him for his foolishness.

Hamid's feelings are hurt. In an injured voice he says, 'Every day you burn your fingers while making chapatis. That is why I bought the chimta for you.'

Amena's annoyance melts into love. A love so deep that it cannot be expressed in words. To think that a little child could be so selfless, so generous ! How must he have felt when he saw his friends enjoying themselves ! In the midst of all that festivity, he still thought of his old grandmother.

Amena breaks down and weeps. It is strange ! Hamid the little boy had become Hamid the adult. Now Amena the old woman has become Amena the child. Tears fall unceasingly¹⁴ from her eyes as she blesses Hamid a thousand times ! Little Hamid ! How can he understand the storm of emotions in Amena's heart.

- Premchand

Word Power

What do all these people do ? follow the example and write in the space provided.

1. farmer : A farmer is someone who owns or cultivates a farm.
2. lawyer : _____
3. soldier : _____
4. pilot : _____
5. air hostess : _____
6. astronaut : _____
7. consultant : _____
8. chef : _____
9. receptionist: _____
10. programmer : _____

Comprehension

A. Answer the following questions in one or two sentences each.

1. Why was everyone in the village in a hurry that morning?
2. Why did the boys seem to be very excited ?

12 - a musical instrument. 13- sad and disappointed. 14- done at the same time.

3. Why did Hamid not ride the roundabout ?
4. How did Hamid demonstrate that his chimta was superior to Mohsin's toy
5. What made Mehmood share his banana with Hamid ?
6. Why did Mehmood break the other leg of his soldier ?

B. Answer the following questions in three or four sentences each.

1. Why, inspite of his poverty and bereavement, did Hamid seem to be the happiest boy of all?
2. What did Amena fear as the child left for Idgah ?
3. Describe the sights at the Idgah.
4. What toys did the children buy ?
5. Hamid wanted to enjoy like his companions but did not. Do you agree? Pick up statements from the text to support your answer.
6. What made Hamid buy a pair of tongs ?
7. What qualities of the chimta made it superior to all the toys ?
8. Hamid had an answer for every child who claimed his toy was better. Do you think Hamid really believed in what he said ? Why ?
- 9- Describe how Hamid's selflessness affected Amena.

C. "Hamid the little boy had become Hamid the adult, Now Amena the old woman has become the child" Explain.

Language Practice

1. Read the underlined words

Hamid bought a chimta for his grandmother.

Mehmood had twelve pice.

He was a poor child.

They were only concerned with eating it.

The verbs in those sentences are in the part tense. Different uses of past tense are given below :

2. Past Indefinite Tense

- To express an action completed in the past eg. They finished the work late on that day.
- To express habitual or regular action in the past. eg. I went out for a walk daily in the morning.

- To express an action which occupied a period of time in the past which has now ended. E.g We lived in this house for 7 years (do not live now)

Check Yourself

Fill in the blanks using the correct form of the verbs given below :

hurt, teach, spend, sell, throw,
fall, catch, buy, cost.

Example - *I was hungry so I bought something to eat in the shop.*

1. Lallu's father _____ him how to drive when he was 17.
2. Dolly _____ down the stairs this morning and _____ her leg.
3. We needed some money so we _____ our car.
4. Annu _____ a lot of money yesterday. She _____ a dress which _____ Rs. 500/-
5. Jitu _____ the ball to Sonu who _____ it.

Past Continuous Tense

- Past continuous tense is used to express repeated actions in the past, and an action that was in progress/ continuing at a time in the past to which the sentence, refers e.g. *She was crying at the top of her voice.*
- To express an action that was in progress when another action happened.
e.g. *I was sleeping when the postman came.*

Check Yourself

Here is a list of some things that Raju did yesterday and the times at which he did them.

1. 8 : 45 A.M. - 9:15 A.M. had breakfast
2. 9 : 15 A.M. - 10:00 A.M. read the news paper.
3. 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon studied his course books.
4. 12: 45 P.M. - 1:30 P.M. had lunch.
5. 2:30 P.M. - 3.30 P.M. washed some clothes.
6. 4.00 P.M. - 6.00 P.M. watched television.

Now write sentences saying what he was doing at these times :

- 1- At 9. O'Clock he was having breakfast.
- 2- At 9:30 he _____
- 3- At 11 O'clock _____

- 4- At 1 O'clock _____
- 5- At 3 O'clock _____
- 6- At 5 O'clock _____

Past Perfect Tense

- To Express an action completed before another action took place.
eg. *The movie had begun before I reached the cinema Hall*
eg. *The train had left before I reached the station.*

Check Yourself.

Change the following sentences into past perfect tense .

- Our team won the match.

- Neeta knitted these gloves.

- You planted these plants ?

- You forgot her name ?

- Many people believed her story ?

Past Perfect Continuous

We use Past Perfect Ccontinuous tense for an action which happened over a period of time.
e.g. *I had been swimming in the pool for an hour.*

Check Yourself

Complete the following sentences using the past perfect continuous.
form of the verbs given in brackets.

- I _____ for you _____ for an hour (wait)
- He _____ for two hours. (run)
- They _____ since 2 O'Clock. (Sing)
- It _____ since morning (raining)
- Children _____ since noon (play)

Listening Time

Filling Gaps

Instruction This one- sided conversation is read by a teacher in the class. Students are told to listen to it attentively and reconstruct the conversation by providing the missing parts of the conversation.

A: Hello, Babita!

B: Hello, Sunita!

A: I'm fine, thank you. And you?

B: _____

A: Oh I'm sorry to hear that, Have you seen the doctor?

B: _____

A: Well, you really ought to go, you know, Mustn't neglect yourself.

B: _____

A: I'll be there Can I help in anyway ?

B: _____

A: O.K., I'll try to do that.

Note : The complete conversation is again read out by the teacher as well as the students and others listen to it carefully.

Speaking Time

Seeking an appointment

Secretary : Hello, Dr Verma's office. Can I help you ?

Sajid : Good morning I'd like to have an appointment with Dr Verma on Monday, please.

Sec : Who is speaking please ?

- Sajid : Oh, This is Sajid Khan
- Sec : Yes Mr. Khan Monday is all right. But it will have to be in the afternoon, will 4:30 do ?
- Sajid : That'll be fine. I'd like to know if there are facilities for X-ray, scanning and pathology.
- Sec : Yes there are. You can get all test done here itself.
- Sajid : That'll make things easier for me. Thank you very much.
- Sec : You're welcome.

Pair or group work : Practise the above dialogue with your partner and seek an appointment with a professor/ an advocate/ director etc of any institute.



Writing Time

A- Develop a short story with the help of the clues given below

- Your class goes to a fair.
- Everybody buys the things of his choice namely sweets toys bats, balls etc.
- One boy buys books.
- His friends laugh at his purchase of books.
- The next day, he donates the books to one of his class fellows who could not go with them for want of money.
- The class appreciates his wise spending.

B- How do you celebrate your favourite festival . Describe it in your words.



Things to Do

All of you must be getting some pocket money. Constitute a poor- boys' fund by contributing a bit of your pocket money weekly, fortnightly or monthly. List a few poor students or drop-outs and arrange for their admission, text books, notebooks etc.

