

THE WELLS

Anti-Values in Modern Society.

Intent of the Story:

- ✓ *The story tries to depict some unhealthy attitudes and values obtaining in modern society such as, love of comfort, pleasure seeking, and selfishness.*
- ✓ *The better offs do not want to know the poverty and hardships their poor brothers have to face, much less help them.*
- ✓ *The Story tells us also what will happen to those who do not fall in line with their mentality and interests.*

THE STORY

Somewhere in the world, some queer people worked very hard. They spent their time digging deep and comfy wells. Once they had dug their wells, they had the quaint custom of settling down at the bottom of it .

The well-dwellers made sure that comforts, wealth and luxuries were not lacking in their “living wells”. Down there, they felt cozy and secure. The little patch of blue sky overhead, visible from the bottom of their wells, afforded them sufficient light, peace and contentment.

They never felt the need of getting out of their wells to discover what life for most of people was like out there! Actually, they loathed it. “To get out?” they said, “What for? We need not know what the world is like outside! Inside here, our life is pleasurable and peaceful and secure.

One day, a lad who had been born and bred in one of those wells complained to his people. “I am bored stiff down here! I am tired of being forever hemmed within the walls of this well just eating, drinking and rolling in luxury. I want to get out and see the world outside there!” They warned him: “No! Do not dare go out there! Life is easy here, but hard there. Here we have no fears, no worries and no struggles”.

Courageously, however, and full of adventure, he jumped out of his well. When he discovered the injustices done to most people, the exploitation going on outside in the world, he was moved to compassion and indignation. He said to himself: “Why should we live in luxury and plenty in our little wells, when so many people outside of starvation? Oh, if only my people would realize their plight, they would jump out of their wells and share what they have with their brothers and sisters!

With a heart overflowing with compassion and zeal, our youngster leapt back into the well to share with his people his shocking discoveries. He tried as much as he could to explain and convince them, but all in vain! Some did not bother to listen to him; the others accused him of being a traitor to his own kin. They growled at him: “Why did you come back to disturb our peace? We are quite happy down here! Here we have security, luxuries and comforts. We live in peace! Leave us alone! Get out from here!”

Our youngster, sadly, said to himself: Oh. If they would, only, realize that there is more to life than comforts, wealth, pleasures and a make-belief peace”

POINTS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION.

1. In real life what is signified by:
 - The “wells”?
 - The people living inside the wells
 - The boy who jumped out of the well
2. What were the people digging wells searching for?
3. Are there such people in real life? Who are they?
4. Mention some of their mentality and their ideals in life.
5. Can people living in wells, really know what is life for others outside the wells? Why?
6. Can life be truly happy and meaningful when lived selfishly in the hollow of a well? Why?
7. Have you ever in your past life, somewhat, lived in a well? How? Explain.
8. Why people living in wells refuse to get out of them?
9. Can you mention some names of persons – dead or alive – who dared jump out of their wells? What did make them jump out of them? Kindly, retell their stories.
10. If we want to get out of our wells to help those outside:
 - What do we need?
 - What will others say about us?
 - What will they do to us?
 - What are we likely to lose?
 - What our reward will be?
11. How can we motivate the Well-dwellers to come out of their wells?