

Honesty is The Best Policy



*A Pinku and Dadaji
Series*

World is honest to you if you are one

Dadaji: Hello Pinku Good Morning

Pinku: Good morning Dadaji yesterday I happened to visit milk parlor. The cost of the milk was 21; I gave the parlor owner 50. He returned 19 so I gave it back to my mother. Before my mom could ask any question, from behind came the parlor boy and gave 10 to me. I was surprised the parlor owner sent this boy to return the remaining amount to me. I gave back the money to mom and she was happy.

Dadaji: But, why are you surprised Pinku?

Pinku: Well! Dadaji, the owner of the parlor ensured to stay honest and returned my money. He could have simply escaped the situation if Mom would ask for the change stating that all the change was handed over to me. But, he honestly returned money realizing his mistake.

Dadaji: Honesty is the best policy Pinku.

Pinku: What happens if I am not honest Dadaji?

Dadaji: Well! Every human is bonded by something called Karma. Karma is the deed you do day in and day out. Karma always returns to you in some form. Hence, if you are honest, the

Honesty Returns Honesty

karma will return you the honesty back to you. If you are dishonest, the karma will return the dishonesty back to you.

Pinku: These are big words Dadaji I don't understand can you simplify this further by giving some example.

Dadaji: Oh sure Pinku. Every day, Chanchuram used to purchase bread from the baker Ramlal and sell rich village butter to him. One day visitors visited Ramlal and he requested, Chanchuram to bring one kilo of fresh butter. Chanchuram looked for the finest butter he could find in his village and brought the same to Ramlal. After the Chanchuram left the bakery, the baker's wife weighed the butter to see if she got what her husband had paid for. The butter was a few grams less than that of a kilo. She complained the same to her husband and furious baker Ramlal called Chanchuram for inquiry.



Honest Karma returns honesty to you

Chanchuram told Ramlal, that he do not have a weight for measurement and used to put the same loaf of bread which he purchases from Ramlal daily on the scale to weigh butter. Ramlal was ashamed of his deed and asked pardon to Chanchuram and gave two loafs of bread for free.

What you understand Pinku?

Pinku: Well! Dadaji, if you are dishonest, the karma will return the dishonesty back to you in some form.

Dadaji: Ah! Good so you did understand that I am glad.

Pinku: I have a question Dadaji yesterday few of our classmates were giggling but instead of them, Shamu was punished un-necessarily by the teacher. How do you justify this Dadaji?

Dadaji: Well I don't know the facts and figures of what you just said, but it reminded me a small story which you should know to better understand Karma. It goes like this:

Bhishma Pitamaha, lying on the bed of arrows, tells Krishna that he had done no harm to any being or told no lies or did any such things

Expect Honesty When You are One

which was wrong then why was bed of arrows bestowed to him. Krishna replies: "In a life prior to this, once you were going in a forest and saw a snake on your way and you held it by its tail and threw it away in the bush of thorn, and the pain of the snake was unbearable. Due to that sin, you are suffering today on this arrow-bed. Karma has led you to undergo the same pain to you in this present life of yours."

Pinku: Dadaji, you are scaring me.

Dadaji: No Pinku... I am just asking you to be honest so that honest karma is returned to you. Be honest to yourself and be honest to others too.

Pinku: Well Dadaji, I have a best friend by name Mantu. I am honest, but I cannot be sure of Pintu's honesty who is one of our other classmates'. He always complains about Mantu to me and three quarters of what he tells me is false.



Being truth-full to self, is honesty

Dadaji: This reminds me about a small story of how you can avoid someone talking bad against your best friend. Here it goes:

Socrates was Greek philosopher known for his great knowledge and wisdom. One day an acquaintance of his met and said, "I just heard something about your friend. Do you want to know about it?" To which Socrates replied calmly, "Before you talk to me about my friend, it might be good idea to test importance of what you're going to say. Let it pass through the triple filter test. The first filter of your information is truth. Are you absolutely sure that whatever you are about to tell me about my friend is true?"

"Well, no," the man said, "I just heard about it from somewhere"

"All right, so you are unsure about the truthfulness of your statement you are about to make. Now, let's try the second filter, the filter of Goodness. Is what you are about to tell me a good thing?" said Socrates.

"Umm, No" answered the man softly.

"So, you want to tell me something bad about

If your intentions are clear
you are always Honest

my friend which you're not certain it's true. You failed the first two tests but you may still pass the test if you pass the final filter, the filter of usefulness. Is what you want to tell me going to be useful to me?"

"No, not really." replied the man shamefully.

"Well, if what you want to tell me is neither true, nor good or even useful, why waste your time to tell it to me at all." concluded Socrates.

Although there is nothing wrong with talking about other people, it is what we talk about them that really matters. If you talk negative about others and be dishonest to others, your credibility goes down. So never be dishonest to others.

Pinku: That's true Dadaji. No one likes Pintu in the class as he bad mouths everyone. Teachers also punish him a lot and sometimes, he gets punishment for no mistake of his which actually was done by someone else.



Your consciousness drives honesty

Dadaji: Exactly, if you are dishonest to others the karma returns it to you with double the speed.

Pinku: Hmm...What are the benefits being honest?

Dadaji: Honesty is the key component to character and the most admired trait of any responsible person. Honesty help develop positive relationships, honesty allows one to be able to accept others in a positive way.

Pinku: That was an easy question for you Dadaji isn't it? Let me ask you a difficult one: How can I judge that someone is honest?

Dadaji: It's so simple Pinku...honesty is not seen in what someone speaks or boasts he is capable of but, honesty is seen in the deeds one person does. If you carefully observe the deeds, you will know whether someone is honest or not.

Pinku: That was an excellent insight you have given Dadaji but if someone is showing to be honest through his deeds, but is not from inside how you will know?

Dadaji: Ah! Great question Pinku... For a while

Honest makes the society a better place to live

I thought you were praising me and suddenly I see you bombarding me with a very difficult question. Remember one thing Pinku every person in this world has something called self-consciousness. If a person is continually doing good deeds, doing good slowly converts into being good meaning good becomes that persons passion or I would say trait. Even if that person at this stage wants to do wrong or harm someone, his/her self-consciousness will not allow. So! Give time to yourself, continually observe the deeds of a person and you know that he is being honest or not.

Pinku: Oh! So you mean to say just by looking at a person upfront you cannot say whether he is honest or not. You need to spend some time with that person and observe his good deeds.

Dadaji: Exactly. By looking at you, I understand that you still have some question which is more difficult.



Your savior is your honesty

Pinku: Obviously Dadaji. Here goes the question: If you a person knowingly acts to be honest by both deeds and talks, for attaining main goal or purpose of cheating you how would you handle such situation Dadaji?

Dadaji: Hmm... you are right there are such street-smart mean people unfortunately exist around you who can show off being “the honest” and you continually fall in trap. What to do? Well! There is a way out, maintain good personal relationship with everyone you meet or talk in your life. Someone out of the lot will be your savior for sure. "Never hurt anyone" is a book rule.

Pinku: Yes Dadaji... sure I will follow this as a golden rule in my life too. Never hurt someone and maintain good personal relation with people around me but Dadaji I have a question: How important is honesty in maintaining personal relationship with others?

Dadaji: Thank you Pinku for asking a simple question this time. Well! Honesty means openness and truth and not lies and cover-ups and this is exactly what everyone expects.

Pinku: True! How do you inspire others to be

Circumstances cannot deter an Honest person

honest?

Dadaji: Simple! You are honest to others and they are auto inspired. No legacy is as rich as being honest.

Pinku: Is honesty somewhere related to genes?

Dadaji: Genes do carry personality traits from your above generations but that is nothing to do with honesty. Honesty can sometimes be environmental factor meaning, your parents, your friends, your teachers and the people around you. Their behavior usually is carried by you as a child. But that is also not permanent. Honesty is more to do with your own feel good factor which no one teaches you.

Pinku: Then, why people say honesty so difficult?

Dadaji: Circumstantial pressure and thought process of current world makes it difficult but, it is not so.



An honest relation is always good

Everyone in the modern world want to play safe, no one wants to take risks of brunt from others and hence, in the run to safe self, honesty gets lost somewhere. There has to be a drastic change in the mindsets that needs to be built in.

Pinku: True! Well! My next question: It is said that honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom. Can you elaborate this Dadaji?

Dadaji: Wisdom is quality of being wise. When do you become wise? Well! You become wise, when you have quality judgment, quality knowledge and quality of being sensible every time. One word that takes importance in this definition is quality and this quality comes only when you are being honest. Hence, honesty becomes the first chapter of being wise.

Pinku: These are all fine but what is the importance of honesty?

Dadaji: Ah! Great question Pinku... Here is the answer for your question:

- ⇒ Being honest, others will respect and trust you.
- ⇒ Being honest gives you peace of mind.

Circumstances cannot deter
an Honest person

- ⇒ Honesty gives you self-respect and self-confidence.
- ⇒ Honesty in a relationship enhances great bond, deepens the relationship and create a closer connection with your loved ones.

Pinku: Hmm... these points make sense Dadaji. Well my next question what is the difference between honesty and truthfulness?

Dadaji: Honesty is related to both deed and what you say. Meaning you are honest in a deed when you do it for some good. You are honest in what you say when you are transparent and do not hide much of the things. Being truthful means your actions match your words, you are sincere and open to feedback. If you relate the two there is no much difference, usually both go hand in hand.

Pinku: Dadaji why do you say “do not hide much of the things”?



Be honest to teach honesty

I was expecting that you would ask this. Let's be practical Pinku that it is difficult to digest all the truth in the world. Hence, hiding some things might dilute things and you still are honest.

Pinku: I heard from my father that honest persons are blunt. Is it true?

Dadaji: Well! There is no relation of what you have asked. Being honest means you do your deeds with utmost dedication. Being blunt or polite is individual choice.

Pinku: Hmm... makes sense. Ok my next question. People say, you cannot make money if you are honest. How will you justify or deny your argument?

Dadaji: A bit of subjectivity is involved in your question. Well! You can make money by cheating somebody and you can also make money by being genuine to your customers. But, one thing, one who stayed honest with the customer has lasted long and that person sleeps with peace every day.

Pinku: And what about the person who has cheated.

Dadaji: Well! Karma hits back strong on such

Only trustworthy people are those who are Honest

person and that person will definitely face troubles.

Pinku: Hmm... makes sense Dadaji... ok! Can you tell me Dadaji whether honesty can be taught?

Dadaji: Honesty is taught at schools via stories, at home by parents by giving examples of rewards of honesty. And my view is teaching of honesty is a must and needs to be taught everywhere meaning at home, at school, at college, at universities and everywhere where it is possible. Regularly, reward for honesty, encourage everyone to be honest, talk about success stories of being honest and see how the world changes.

Pinku: True Dadaji. Mother Teresa said honesty and transparency make you vulnerable. Be honest and transparent anyway. Why honesty and transparency make you vulnerable?



Be honest to teach honesty

Dadaji: It is generally thought that those who are honest can be bullied, they can be blamed easily or blame can easily be transferred to them, they can be used for getting loads of work cleared so on and so forth which makes the honest vulnerable. Transparent people usually tell everything they are aware of which others might not appreciate or like it as they want to keep things secretive hence, those others will always find a way to tap those who are transparent and try blame them every time this makes transparent people vulnerable.

Pinku: Then, how to be honest and transparent and still not be vulnerable.

Dadaji: Intelligent question Pinku. Simple answer is managing people around you not losing your honesty or transparency.

Pinku: Why should I be honest if honesty does not pay?

Dadaji: Let's assume Pinku that everyone in this world is dis-honest what will happen?

Pinku: I cannot imagine a world to exist with all being dis-honest.

Dadaji: This is why you need to be honest.

An honest person
lives life better

Honesty is like vessels that carry goodness in this world. Engineer has to build a building with honesty, Dr. has to be honest while operating, and teacher has to be honest while teaching so on and so forth.

Pinku: Can we measure honesty Dadaji?

Dadaji: Unfortunately there isn't any measure. People have tried to develop questionnaire, worksheets and activities to measure honesty. But! All these tests are not fool proof enough to say someone is honest. You are the best judge to know whether you are honest or not.

Pinku: It is said that decisions taken in honesty are usually successful. How far is that true Dadaji?

Dadaji: Well! The simple logic here is honesty means that you try to do your best and are willing to accept the consequences of your actions.



Help without honesty is no help

Honesty means that you respect others enough to tell them the truth and that you value your opinion of yourself enough to never live a lie. Hence, decisions taken in honesty often lead to success.

Pinku: Makes sense. What is the most important value that honesty creates Dadaji?

Dadaji: Honesty creates the best relationships with anyone in this world because it leads to trust and faith. If you are honest, you auto become compassionate, friendly, loyal and make sure that you do the right thing and treat your relationships well.

Pinku: Ah! That's true... What if I ask you to summarize the traits of honesty what they would be?

Dadaji: By being honest, you see the good in everything. You make people feel that they are special. You will never stop learning. You will keep your promises. You will always be a loyal friend. You will appreciate what you have. You will be humble to others. You yourself do what you preach. You will be dependable and reliable. You will be self-reliant. You will always accept responsibility. You will always strive to

Honesty is the trust factor of all relationships

do the right thing. You will always be strong and no one can bow you down. You always give others a chance and help everyone in your touch to excel. You start believing in the concept forgive and forget. You will be fair in your deeds, business and dealings. You are always a helping hand. You are always thankful to others. You will respect yourself and others too. You will always make good choices. You will always be a good whether you are loser or a winner. You will always come forward to Volunteer. You will never forget your roots. You will be the best family person. And, lastly you make a difference by living in this world.

Pinku: That was an excellent summary Dadaji. My last question: "If someone does not want to be honest, can you still change their mindset/frame?"

Dadaji: Well! Yes you can always through your good deeds encourage others to be honest too.



World is the best when all are honest

Continuously staying in touch with you, your good qualities including being honest and truthful will someday attract the people around you and they are forced to change even though they don't want to be honest. Do well be good, all will be good.

Pinku: I thought that was a great interaction with you Dadaji again. Thanks for taking time every time and answering my questions without irritation.

Dadaji: Well! I taught values to my son and now I am teaching it to my grandson. All is the same and history repeats. Bye Pinku lets meet in the evening.

Honesty and integrity are
always rewarded

Honesty starts with
being ourselves,
Authentic and True

Thank You

