



Lesson- 4

A Great Leader of The Oppressed And The Downtrodden

NOTES:

Summary: Bhim Ramji Ambedkar was a remarkable leader of India. It is a story of his dedication for the poor and lower class people of the country. Ambedkar wanted justice and equality for the untouchables. He wanted to put an end to the evil practice of casteism. He was very much against the wrong idea of division between man and man. He had faced many humiliating incidents in his life. One such example was, he could not join his classmates to drink water from the well as he was an untouchable. Another was, Bhim and his brother were forced to get off from a cart while they were on the way to Goregaon to meet their father. The cart driver came to know that they were untouchables. He even threw down their luggage.

Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, had his first name from his mother Bhima, and the second name, from his father Ramji Sankpal. He was a good and serious student in the class. A teacher lent his surname Ambedkar to save from the cruelties of casteism. Ambedkar was strongly against the evil of casteism.

The Maharaja of Baroda sent Bhim abroad for higher studies. He got his M.A, LLM and Ph.D. degrees from the Columbia University in America. He became a teacher of law and practised very successfully at the Bombay High Court. He strongly demanded a separate electorate for the untouchables.

When he became the Law Minister of free India, he took the leading role in the drafting the Constitution of India so he is called “the father of the Indian Constitution”. In an effort to liberate oppressed from tyranny of casteism, Ambedkar and two lakh of followers embraced Bhudism in 1956. Nowadays, his followers have rejected the derogatory term ‘Sudra’ and call themselves ‘Dalits’.

Glossary

- Relief - deliverance from distress or pain
- Untouchable - low caste people in Hindu caste system
- Casteism - a system of dividing Hindu society in castes
- Luggage - bags containing traveller's belongings
- Electorate - body of electors
- Tyranny - cruel and arbitrary use of authority
- Derogatory - involving discredit
- Sudras - lowest in Indian caste system

