

# Character

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Character has been defined as “the distinctive mark of an individual.” What that mark is going to be depends partly upon nature, but largely on family environment and up-brining. Children are imitative creatures, but they are also endowed with reasons; and character is formed, first by inculcating ideas of right and wrong in the minds of the young and, secondly, by the exercise on the part of the children of the reasoning power on questions of right and wrong. All men more or less are the architects of their own character.

Character depends upon imitations, tastes, talents and habits. Imitation, in the case of children, is instinctive and not connected with reason, but as he grows older he chooses what to initiate. Then is the time for education to step in and point out what is worthy of imitation and what is unworthy, and then he will learn to select the best models for limitation. Ideals of self-control, courage, benevolence, honesty, purity should constantly be held up for the admiration of the young. They should be encouraged to read the biographies of great men, that they may be inspired by their example.

Another important factor in the formation of character is habit. It is by habit that character is fixed, just as it is by conduct that it is indicated. The practice of shirking work quickly grows and if allowed to obtain a firm hold, will be found most difficult to eradicate. On the contrary good habits, though more difficult to form than bad habits, are within the power of who are not radically weak, and, once formed, will rebuilt in the production of a healthy man, a worthy citizen, dutiful son and a wise father.

Essay No. 2

## Character and Career

Or

### Importance of Character Building

**If wealth is lost, nothing is lost.**

**If health is lost, something is lost.**

**If character is lost, everything is lost.**

The old saying is quite relevant today as it was in olden days. It seems that with the changing values of life, it is money and gold, not character, which values with people now, but the reality is that the shine of money and riches remains for some time only and what is everlasting is only the good in man. Greatness does not lie in how much wealth you possess but what type of character you display in your dealings with others.

A person of strong character is always fearless. He is honest and speaks the truth. He does not need to hide anything from others. He is an open book. Anybody can read it. He is loved and respected by all. He had the moral courage to face all difficulties. He may be poor by appearance but he is rich in thought. No serious disease catches him. He has no mental tension. He is least affected by success and failures of life. He is a balanced person. For him work is worship. He is not greedy for wealth. He likes to share his earnings with those who are poor and helpless. Money is not his dearest possession. He likes to earn the wealth of good – will.

Besides, health and wealth, we need character, which is the most important in the success of life. If you have no character, you can never be happy and successful. If you are dishonest and nobody trusts you, what is the use of you, what is the use of your gold? Goodwill can be stolen but nobody can rob you of goodwill. Money comes and goes, but your character stays with you forever. No thief can walk away with your character.

Kwan Ning and Hwa In were two Chinese scholars of the Wei Dynasty (A.D. – 220-265). They would work together in the field and sit together in the library.

One day when they were digging together in the field, they found a piece of gold. Kwan Ning took no notice of it and continued to dig; but Hwa In picked it up and gazed at it before he threw it down. Another day when they were studying together in the library and sitting together as usual, there were shouts in the streets that a nobleman riding in a fine carriage was passing by. Kwan Ning took no notice of it; but Hwa In attracted by the splendor, abandoned his study and rushed out to have a look.

Since this incident, Kwan Ning had a low opinion of Hwa In and separated his own seat from his, saying to him. “You are no friend of mine”. Hence the expression “to cut one’s seat”, which means to break one’s relations. It is best to cut your seat with bad boys and bad girls as early as possible, because the more you stay in their company the more dangerous they become to you.

History shows that Kwan Ning was right; for a while he refused to co-operate with the corrupt and evil rulers in any way and on any terms. Hwa In became a minister

of corrupt and evil king for his selfish motives. Such people never do any good to the people and they are enemies of the nation. Their education is a complete failure and sheer waste of time and money.

As a great Russian writer said. “it is not the brain that matters most, but that which guides it – the heart, the character, generous qualities, progressive ideas.”