





**ESSAYS BOOKLET ABOUT VALUES AND NON-VALUES**



ESSAYS ABOUT VALUES

**KINDNESS**

Kindness is, in itself, a feature of people with character. It is specifically human, with metaphysic origins, and unfortunately, it has become very rare nowadays. Rushed to burn stages in their evolution to nowhere, people do not have time to consider other people’s needs and desires.

 Being kind involves effort and understanding while being mean does not involve too much, not even thinking – you just follow your primitive urges and the damage has been done!

 Kindness is accompanied by qualities without which it would not be complete: compassion, understanding, good will, tolerance, gentleness, generosity, admiration. Being a good person involves meditating on your role on earth and being kind unconditionally.

 Kindness enriches the man, gives him a sense in life.

**SOLIDARITY**

One of the most important values of life is solidarity. It is the close relationship that connects the people of a whole together. This way, people feel the need to help their fellows, not from pity but from sheer love towards them.

Without solidarity there would have been no community, not even humanity. We would be called animals, with the bad meaning of the word. There would have been nothing to separate us from the "irrational" animals of nature.

Luckily, though, the majority of people have not forgotten its value. We can distinguish daily examples of ordinary people, who, with all the strength of their soul, try to help their fellows in need. Many organizations have been created on this value. "The people must be helped". By all means, with all power "the people must be helped".

Through solidarity people open themselves to other people, they socialize, they experience other peoples' emotions and they become more sensitive towards their fellows. The thoughts of the person that helps don't matter at all. No one and nothing can stand in between them. At the same time, a selfless love rules in between them. It's that kind of love which gives warmth to a person’s soul. The only obstacle that this love faces is selfishness and arrogance. Everything else evolves naturally.

Today, our society is living the negative side of the matter. Suspiciousness reigns in the greatest part of today's society. Racism also stands in the way of solidarity and love. Because of it people are divided according to a their social status or one of their physical characteristics. Each one of us, using his personality as a shield, rushes to help his fellow in these dark times. After all, we are all people, we all need help and we all bend without someone to help us.

Nowadays, our society being tested both economically and socially, solidarity is our only hope. It will unite us, make us stand on our feet and we will manage to overcome this economical and social problem.

**COURAGE**

Courage and fear are not mutually exclusive. Fear is an emotion or disposition that is inherent to the human existence and we are all afraid of something particular. Courage means going forward towards something or promoting something despite being afraid.

Courage is one of the fundamental human values. It is not only a value but also the background for practicing and promoting values in general. Our life, our relationships and our values are based on courage, which can be compared to the ground on which the other values grow.

We cannot be prudent, moderate or wise without having courage.

**PERSEVERANCE**

Perseverance is a very important value to succeed in life. Perseverance is when someone gets up after failing and continues what he started to finally succeed. Perseverance is composed of hard work, efforts and a positive attitude.

For example, Adrien who works regularly to pass his diploma in our role-play.

**HONESTY**

Although not being very helpful when mother wants to know who ate all of the cookies she just baked, nowadays honesty is a necessity, since lies and ulterior motives have become dominant in people’s relationships and interactions.

Honesty signifies scrupulousness and willingness to always speak the truth. It is considered as one of humanity’s most basic moral values, on which our society is – or, at least, should be – based upon. It is what we owe our coexistence with each other to, while avoiding misunderstandings, suspicion and hatred but, most importantly, the only way we could eventually love and cherish each other and finally discovering happiness.

**FRIENDSHIP**

Friendship is one of the most precious values ​​of life. Like any other value, it cannot be purchased, but won. It is earned through respect, love, selflessness, understanding, mutual aid and giving.

True friendship is to have "next to you" someone who respects you and loves you, someone you can trust; someone who will be happy for you in good times and who will cry with you in bad moments of your life; someone you can trust to share your secrets with; someone you can be sincere with; someone, who in “bad weather” will make you remember the good old times and feel better. Do not forget that people without friends are lonely, isolated and forgotten. On the other hand, people with friends are always joyful, happy and loved.

One thing is certain, it is good to have friends when you feel alright, but is much better to have friends when you do not feel well, and especially when you are in need.

A friend in need is a friend indeed.

**RESPECT**

Respect is the base of any civilization; it allows us to live together. The respect is when someone has a polite attitude and treats people with respect because we are all human beings and also because of their age, social status or origins.

For example, in our role play Adrien respects his teachers whereas Clémence has a rude attitude and she thinks she can succeed without doing anything.

**KNOWLEDGE**

Knowledge is a value that needs a lot of effort to be acquired. It cannot be bought, it can only be earned. It is something that never stops. There is a beginning in knowledge, but there is no end. Even a grownup can learn new things, if he (she) wishes so. When someone learns something new, there is no way to lose it, because it is inside his head.

Knowledge is like a "weapon" in our everyday life, because it helps us to develop and improve ideas for a better future. No one can survive without knowledge. Knowledge is what helps people discover and develop their abilities, talents and their own way of thinking.

Knowledge is the route for a baby to discover the world around him (her). A child will learn to read and write. An adult will be able to face the difficulties of life. So, we all learn and enrich our lives . The ancient Greek philosopher, Socrates said "I know one thing, and that is that I know nothing", wanting to show the infinite of knowledge and the infinite journey of learning.

**BENEVOLENCE**

Benevolence, another fundamental value of personality of a person, is the motive of solidarity. Without benevolence, there would hardly be any humaneness and without humaneness, there would be no society.

As we see every single day, this significant value is playing a very important role not only in the relationships between people but also in the collaboration of the entire community.

Benevolence is a characteristic of some people and that helps them develop and work out more values. By developing values, they also become themselves better people.

**LOVE**

Love is perhaps the most important value of the three "basic" ones: faith, hope, love. He, who loves, has patience and kindness. He isn’t jealous, arrogant at all. He’s also not moody as well. He’s rejoices when right prevails and feels sorry when evil does. On the contrary, he’s neither sad when good thing happen, nor he’s happy when bad things do. He, who loves, bears all burdens, trusts in everything, hopes for everything and endures everything. Love will never cease to exist. If someone says that it is right but feels no love for anybody except from himself, then he clearly isn’t. Nonetheless,

he who doesn’t believe he’s right, but he secretly does good deeds, will be openly rewarded by God. Shall this be remembered by who he has seen it, heard it or read it.

ESSAYS ABOUT NON-VALUES

**HYPOCRISY**

I often wonder what bigot means. Looking at people in church, I ask myself if their beliefs are consistent with their behavior, because recently I have read a fable by Ignacy Krasicki titled ‘The Bigot’. The title describes a highly pious woman, who is praying and hitting her servant at the same time. What a hypocrisy! The poet said: ‘Save me Lord from this kind of piety’. Krasicki unmasks the duplicity of the woman, revealing her true face. At the same time, he mocks the moral falseness, which is widespread in every society. The moral of this story is that one should pray and live life according to God’s teaching, strongly believing and living in a way which shows this belief. I agree with this wit with all my heart. If somebody believes in God, they should convey their love in every minute of their life, help other people, be honest and kind not a hypocrite as the heroine of the fable ‘The Bigot’.

**LAZINESS**

Laziness is a non-value, a human flaw which you can hardly get rid of. If it’s in your nature, you’ll find everything, every chore so hard to do when it actually can be quite easy…

 There’s a saying: “If you don’t work you don’t get.” –and I guarantee it’s for real. If, at the very beginning of the humankind, people had been born lazy, nothing of what we can see nowadays would have existed: the beautiful cities with their houses and skyscrapers, the mobile phones, computers or robots, the cars, the planes or the rockets, and other wonderful things made, due to people’s hard-working and smart nature.

I believe that laziness is the worst of all human flaws. The conclusion is that laziness influences the progress or regress of the humankind.

**THOUGHTLESSNESS**

We are thoughtless when we want to escape routine, or because we are naïve. Sometimes we want something very much, so we don’t think of possible risks we take to get it. Or we can be thoughtless because we are too curious to explore the world and get experiences. We can also be thoughtless when we let our emotions run over logic or when we are in a hurry.

Thoughtlessness can cause problems in our relationships. We can end up losing money, friends, time. People don’t think a thoughtless person is reliable. Thoughtless people often put their health at risk.

When people in power are thoughtless, they put others’ safety in danger and they can create conflicts.

So think twice before you act!

**GREED**

**Max :** Can I have some money, please ?

**Mum :** Why?

**Max :**  To put credit on my cell phone.

**Mum**: Take it, it’s for you *(and she gives 5 €)*

**Max :** Thanks, mum

**Narrator :** Max is going to the garage to see his father.

**Max :** Can you give me some money please ?

**Father :**Yes, help yourself in my wallet.

**Max :** Thanks dad !

**Narrator:** The day after, Max is going to school and meets his friends.

**Max :** -You know what?

**His friends** : What??

**Max :** I took 15 euros from my parents!

**Friend 1, John :** You’re the best!

**Friend 2, Britney :** oh yes, you’re fabulous!

**Friend 3, Debbie :** You’re a burglar!

**Friend 4, Helen :** What are you going to do with these 15 euros!

**Alex :** I have an idea, we can buy Kinder Buenos down town from 4 to 5! This is cool!

***The narrator :*** *In the kitchen, the parents are chatting:*

**Mum :** Look, yesterday, I gave Max 5 euros !

**Father :** Me too!!!!

**Max :** I don’t feel really good, I’m sick !

**Mother** : Come here, we must talk !

**Max :** **-**Ouch! Ouch!

**Father :** -ok, you’re dead my son, the punition will be terrible!

**JEALOUSY**

Jealousy is a powerful emotion that leads to other negative emotions such as fear, insecurity and anger and therefore results in very bad situations e.g. tendency for putting others down.

This bad feeling can harm friendships of a lifetime and scatter misery.

Jealousy is one of the main causes of unhappiness since the jealous person is not only miserable himself but he even tries to cause misery to people around him.

I wonder how some people live with this feeling every day!

**LIE**

I wonder why people lie!

There are innocent, little lies which we can be treated with humor. When these are told by young children they even sound cute. However, a serious lie, especially when it is told by older children, is not acceptable.

It destroys our trust for other sand harms our relationship with our family and friends. A lie may sometimes hide fear, weakness and insecurity. Some people tell lies to impress others or to get their compassion.

However, we have to encourage others to tell the truth. The following saying speaks for itself:

“Free man is the one who can live his life without telling lies”.

**ARROGANCE**

Arrogance is a non-value which is very commonly met nowadays and quite easily tolerated by our society. I don’t think we should boast or show off with the things we possess or with the qualities we believe we have.

 The arrogant people are those who are very selfish and think about only themselves. You may also be arrogant when you don’t admit the mistakes you’ve done even if your friends tell you about them and give you good advice.

 Because of the feeling of pride and of being superior to others, you may look down at your friends, even get angry with them and this is not good.

 Arrogance is one of the worst human flaws which should not be appreciated or tolerated in our society.

**LYING**

Sometimes we lie because we don’t want others to find out about us. We want to hide our mistakes or we try to avoid punishment if we do something wrong. But we can also lie because we are jealous of someone, or we want to become popular by saying things we have done which are not true. We lie for our own interest, we even lie simply to have fun.

When you lie, nobody trusts you or believes you eventually. Then you don’t have friends and you feel lonely. You can feel guilty afterwards. You don’t have true friends.

People who are important in society mustn’t lie because they are responsible for people’s lives. There can be misunderstandings and you can have problems in your job.

In conclusion, lying creates more problems than it solves.

**CHEATING**

*At school :*

**Mrs Little :** You will make sign your form notes by your parents for tomorrow.

**Mrs Little :** Julie can you collect the form notes to check the signatures.

**Julie :** yes miss.

**Mrs Little** : This signature looks strange … Tom come here.

**Tom :** Why Miss ?

**Mrs little :** Did you show your form notes to your parents ?

**Tom :** Yes I did miss.

**Mrs Little :** Strange ! I will compare the other signatures to be sure…

**Mrs Little*****:*** It’s what I thought, there are not the same. I will call his parents tonight.

Tom **sit down !**

*In the evening, Mrs Little called tom’s parents*

**Mrs Little :** Hello Mrs Kline this is the Head teacher of your son.

**Mrs Kline :** Yes Mrs Little what’s the problem ?

**Mrs Little :** Yes I call you to ask if you saw Tom’s form notes because the signature is not the same.

**Mrs Kline :** No, he did not show me the form notes. Did he lie ?

**Mrs Little :** Yes Mrs Kline we are sure now he will have one hour of detention.

**Mrs Kline :** Well, we will punish him as well. Goodbye.

**Mrs Kline :** Tom come here ! your teacher called me ! I’m very angry !

**Tom** *crying* : Sorry mum !

**Mrs Little :** No computer, no phone and no video games for 2 weeks !

*The day after, at school :*

**Mrs Little :** You know what you will get ….(*showing lines)*

**Tom :** Yes I know.

**SELFISHNESS**

Selfishness is the tendency to favor one’s own personal interest instead of the interest of others. Selfishness makes most people feel sad and isolated.

 Usually it is caused by the need of a person to feel that he us first in everything and that he is always infallible, so that he does not care for the other people around him. It is in reality, a passion that pushesaway reason and encourages man to commit ugly and cruel acts.

 It is the worst illness of the soul, which destroys the person that expresses it. On kind of selfishness is racism.