

UNIT-1: HUMAN VALUES

CHAPTER 1.1

A GIFT

- EDGAR A.GUEST

SUMMARY

The poet says that life is a gift that has been given to us by God and we must use it every day. We should not hide it or store it in a chest. It is not a treasure that can be kept in a safe place. Life is not a joy that can be tasted whenever you want and then put it back.

Life is a gift, even a very humble person can say that he possesses it. Every human being has been blessed with this gift of life. The poet says we must try to live each moment of our life. We should not keep it in corners or hide it anywhere. The more you live life, the better it becomes and life's beauty improves with every act and action.

Read the following stanza and answer the questions:-

Life is a gift to be used every day,

Not to be smothered and hidden away;

It isn't a thing to be stored in the chest

Where you gather your keepsakes and treasure your best;

It isn't a joy to be sipped now and then

And promptly put back in a dark place again.

Life is a gift that the humblest may boast of

And one that the humblest may well make the most of,

Get out and live it each hour of the day,

Wear it and use it as much as you may;

Don't keep it in niches and corners and grooves,

You'll find that in service its beauty improves.

QUESTIONS

- a) Where should we not store the gift of life?
- b) How can you make most of life?
- c) Do you agree life should be measured in deeds and not years?
Why?
- d) How according to you, life can be made worthwhile?

ANSWERS

- a) **Where should we not store the gift of life?**

Ans.)

We should not store the gift of life in a chest or any safe place, where we keep our treasures.

- b) **How can you make most of life?**

Ans.)

We can make most of our life, by living every moment and we must use it in service towards others.

- c) **Do you agree life should be measured in deeds and not years? Why?**

Ans.)

Yes, I agree that life should be measured in deeds and not in years because our deeds will be remembered after us and we will make our life more meaningful if we live for the welfare of others.

d) How according to you, life can be made worthwhile?

Ans.)

According to me life can be made worthwhile when we do not live only for ourselves but for all those around us who need our kindness and help. Since life is a gift given to us by God, we have to make the best use of it, it is a blessing.