Lost Spring by Anees Jung

This is an abstract from her book Lost Spring, stories of stolen childhood. It highlights the poor condition of the children of our country.

In this lesson Sheb-A-Alam is a migrant from Bangladesh. The family was forced to move as storms had destroyed their crops.

Now Saheb is a ragpicker at Seemapuri, Delhi. To the children, garbage holds mystery. Sometimes they find coins, notes, or the valuable things.

Saheb is shoeless and dreams of playing tennis and wearing tennis shoes. Eventually, he wears shoes with a hole, mismatched shoes, discarded by some boy. He longs to go to school, but his parents can not afford him to go to school. Later, he works in a tea-shop, earning Rs800/- and his meals. He is a lonely boy. His childhood has no love, schooling or parental care.

Lost Spring means deprived childhood. Garbage heaps are unhealthy places for the poor children.

The second part of the lesson moves to Mukesh, the son of a bangle-maker. Ferozabad is famous for its bangles and these glass bangles are a sign of marital status of a woman.

Mukesh’s family members all make bangles, which are sold far and wide. Only the sahukars and other go-between people make all the profit. The bangle sellers have broken houses, no running water, no sewage facilities, and no good food to eat.

Glass dust produces blindness. 20,000 children are employed in the bangle making industry.

Mukesh sees his family suffering. The elder of the family says she has not had even one good meal in all her life.

Mukesh sees this suffering and decided to change his profession. He wants to become a motor mechanic. He wants to drive a car.

Someday, he will become an apprentice mechanic and carry on with his plans.

Word Meaning

1.slog work hard

2.perpetual going on and on

3.glibly cunningly

4.scrounging seek to obtain something by stealth

5.shuffles moves

6.devoid without

7.desolation aloneness; no one was there

8.discarded reflected; thrown away

9.primeval of the olden times

10.soldering joining

11. sanctity purity; religious significance

12.drab dull

13.apathy carelessness