# Akram Youth

September 2022 English

**Dada Bhagwan Parivar** 

Student of the Year



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Friends,

We are going to talk about the most important stage of your life in this third and final edition of Akram Youth dedicated to today's youth. The period of student life plays a huge role in shaping the character and personality of a youths. There is no doubt that you will built a strong foundation and a bright future for yourself if you become an ideal student.

Many of my young friends may think that I am indeed an ideal student since I get good grades in exams and participate in sports as well as other extracurricular activities. What else is there to being an ideal student? But no! These things will definitely make you a 'good' student, however, it is a different thing to become an 'ideal' student.

What are you thinking about? No, no... It is not very difficult to become an ideal student if you get the right guidance. Let's find out what an ideal student is like. Let's enhance our understanding and get inspired to become an ideal student through this month's Akram Youth magazine....

- Dimplebhai Mehta



### **Ideal Student**

**Questioner:** Who is an ideal student in your opinion? And what is the definition of an ideal student?

**Pujyashree:** An ideal student... he goes to school to study, right?

Questioner: Yes.

**Pujyashree:** Or does he go to do mischief?

Questioner: No, he goes to study.

Pujyashree: Oh, to study! So, how should a student behave if he is there to study? He should be respectful towards the guru or the teacher, even if he does not understand everything. All teachers are not the same. But whoever it is, they are definitely smarter than me. After all, they have been hired by the principal. So, I should learn what they teach. So, the student should do everything that pleases the teacher. He should not do mischief or miss classes or have a girlfriend or boyfriend or harass other students. He should concentrate on his studies and learn well. If he cannot grasp everything in the classroom, then these days there are other books and private tutors. He has other means to study.



And how far can an ideal student go? He does what pleases his parents. Our parents took care of us and sent us to school. They spend money to send us to school. So, we should not abuse this privilege and we should not hurt them.

So, an ideal student is humble in his worldly interactions.

But what should be his main purpose? He should study by remaining humble in his attitude towards the teacher. What happens with humility? Just as the flow of water descends from top to bottom, so does the flow of knowledge 'I want to understand.' We have received Gnan. Therefore, we should pray to the pure Soul of the teacher, 'Please grace me to receive the knowledge of the subject which the teacher has.' And study by remaining humble towards the teacher. Understand what the teacher teaches. Do the homework given by the teacher. Write whatever the teacher tells you to write. Do as the teacher says.

And how far can an ideal student go? He does what pleases his parents. Our parents took care of us and sent us to school. They spend money to send us to school. So, we should not abuse this privilege and we should not hurt them. The student should proceed in such a way that both the parents and the teacher are satisfied. Gradually, he should have reverence for all the elders. He can become ideal like that.

What does ideal mean? Does he hurt others and say, "Why did you tell me that? Why don't you let me play? Why don't you give me money? My father is greedy, so he does not give me a penny to buy a mobile phone." Hey, don't find faults in your parents! It is totally wrong when you see faults of your parents. They feed you and take care of you. Do not find faults in them if you get less luxury. So, an ideal student is humble in his worldly interactions. He behaves in an ideal manner with his parents, teachers, friends, brothers and sisters. He does not hurt anyone.

**Questioner:** Pujyashree, Kaliyug is going on right now. How can one become an

ideal student in Kaliyug?

**Pujyashree:** Decide what ideal means. If negative thoughts arise for someone, do pratikraman. Many times, the teachers may say 'No' to us, and if he says 'Yes' to someone else, we think 'This teacher is biased!' No, that is not it. We should understand, 'I got what I deserved as per my karmic account, and he got what he deserved. I don't want to compete with anyone.'

Do not see faults of the teacher.'I don't want to see that the teacher is biased.' So, since we have Gnan, we will use it. If you have not taken Gnan, then use the right understanding. It is all available in our Akram Express magazine. Even in the GNC group the children are taught to be humble. What is humility? Don't see faults of others, don't speak negative about someone. That is called humility. Proceed with humility.

Do not get into competition with other students. If you want to compete, have a healthy competition. You study well and so will I.'He should fail, and I should do better than him.'That is unhealthy competition. Let him move ahead. Let him come first. It is okay if I come second or third. I will also study hard and succeed.' That is called a healthy competition. If we appreciate the other person's good qualities, then those qualities will manifest in us. If we think and talk negatively about the other person, then the energies

within us will break. Jealousy destroys the energies and appreciation increases the energies.

**Questioner:** So, if someone is competing with us, suppose he is a competitor of ours, then we should see his positives and not his negatives. Even if there is competition, healthy competition should be done, right?

Pujyashree: That's it...healthy competition. 'This is great, you go ahead! Our school will become famous. You also come first. I got eighty-five marks, may you get ninety-five. I will get marks as per my capacity. But you are more capable, you go for it. May you get the highest marks!' We should not have the intention to break the other student's spirit. 'May he succeed and so may I.' That is healthy competition. 'Let us both study nicely. You can guide me. Let's be friends! I do not want to break your spirit. I want you to succeed!'

**Questioner:** An ideal student means, one who lives ideally with everyone, with his friends, with his group, with everyone.

**Pujyashree:** Yes. Hold on to the word 'humility'. Those who have ego and pride will become arrogant and think,'I am something, everyone else is inferior!' One who thinks, 'Everyone is superior', can remain humble. All the good qualities will automatically manifest in the one who is humble.



# Aaruni



In the town of Shantivan there was a beautiful ashram of a great sage named Dhaumya. Many disciples would come to the sage to learn the scriptures. At the crack of dawn, the atmosphere of the ashram would become pious with the chanting of mantras and the scared smoke from the sacrificial fire. All the disciples completed the tasks assigned by the guru with great enthusiasm. Amongst all of them, the guru had special respect for a disciple named Aaruni. The disciples used to do all the guru's chores like arranging for bath water, helping him at home, and making his bed with great respect.

One morning all the disciples came to pay obeisance to the guru. But the guru noticed that Aaruni was not there. The sky was full of clouds and lightning could be seen. Looking at the atmosphere, it seemed as if the sky was going to burst, and a torrential downpour was about to begin. "Why is Aaruni not here?" asked the guru. "He must have fallen asleep," said a disciple. "No, no, maybe he's tending to the calves", replied another. The sage Dhaumya calmly listened to everyone and said, "He will come when he is ready to come. Let us..." Before he could finish the sentence, the sky burst open! A

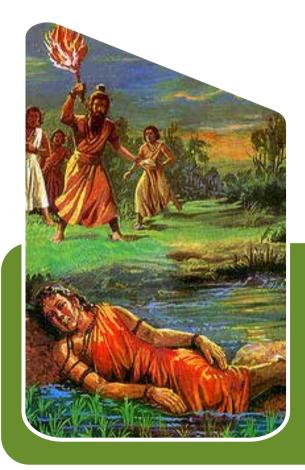
Amongst all of them, the guru had special respect for a disciple named Aaruni. The disciples used to do all the guru's chores like arranging bath water, helping him, making his bed etc. with great respect.

torrential downpour began accompanied by thunder and lightning.

Seeing the situation, the guru immediately called everyone to his cottage. The entire ashram was flooded. "Someone go right away and put sandbags around in our farm or it will get flooded, and the crop will get washed away. Go quickly." ordered the guru without wasting time. But the rain was so heavy that none of the disciples dared to step outside and they walked away giving different excuses. Suddenly, the guru noticed Aaruni, who was coming running from a distance. In one breath, he said, 'The embankment is about to give way. If you allow me, I will go and put sandbags. I have come to prepare the sacrificial fire. Let me finish that and then go.' "Go, Aaruni and stop the water from getting in. The embankment should not break. I will make sure the sacrificial fire is ready." the guru ordered.

As soon as he received the guru's order, Aaruni ran. He made his way through the rubble. He plucked out the thorns that pricked him on the way. Aaruni finally reached the embankment. The situation seemed out of control, and he got worried. He didn't have much time to think. In the last twenty years, he had never disregarded the orders of the guru. He thought of his guru in his mind and it was as if a burst of energy entered his whole body! He laid down

The entire field will get flooded, and the crop will get washed away. Go quickly." ordered the guru without wasting time. But the rain was so heavy that none of the disciples dared to step outside and they walked away giving different excuses.



horizontally so as to stop the flow of water from breaking the embankment. The entire day went by.

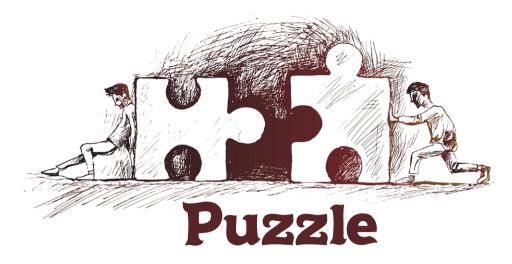
The next morning when Aaruni was not seen, the guru asked, "Where is Aaruni?" Suddenly he remembered that the rain that had fallen vesterday might have caused the embankment to break. Surely, Aaruni must be there. He asked the other disciples present in the ashram about Aaruni But no one knew about his whereabouts. The guru shouted. "Dear Aaruni, where are you?" After searching a lot, a voice was heard from a distance, "Guru, I am here. Come towards the embankment." The guru and his disciples rushed towards the embankment. Seeing Aaruni, the guru said, "Stand up son." Aaruni replied, 'No, there is a big hole here and my body is blocking the water from entering it. I will get up only after this hole is filled.' All the disciples quickly filled up the hole with soil.

Aaruni explained to the guru that while he was walking around yesterday

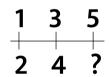
evening, he saw that there was a big hole in the embankment. If the water were to overflow, it would ruin the crop. So, he had tried to fill the hole with soil, but the hole kept getting bigger. So he used his body to stop the water. Because he was there, he was not at the ashram, so he asked for forgiveness from the guru. Hearing all this, the joy of sage Dhaumya knew no bounds. He was very proud of his disciple and said, "You have endured great pains. I bless you, and on your face, I can see the light of knowledge. May you be successful in using this knowledge." Aaruni left the ashram with the guru's blessings.

See friends, Aaruni obeyed the orders of Sage Dhaumya. And as a result, with the blessings of his guru, Aaruni received all the knowledge. Later he came to be known as Uddalak. Under the name of Uddalak, Aaruni became famous as a wise man.

The guru and the disciples rushed towards the banks. Seeing Aaruni, the guru said, "Stand up, son."
Aaruni replied, 'No, there is a big hole here and my body is blocking the water from entering it.'



01) Below, what does the question mark represent?



02) Find the qualities of an ideal student in the word puzzle below.

С	О	N	С	Ε	N	Т	R	Α	Т	ı	0	N
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R	0	Н	E	G	Р	I	0	Р	G	Т	R	D
D	В	U	K	D	Α	Р	M	I	U	E	ı	S
W	I	M	G	K	I	F	W	E	I	R	0	Α
0	E	I	G	ט	G	E	S	Α	A	M	U	Q
R	X	I	W	E	S	D	N	D	R	I	S	W
K	V	ı	Α	R	Т	K	Р	С	ı	N	R	U
I	0	Т	N	0	В	ı	Е	Α	T	E	Α	Т
N	J	Υ	М	0	D	E	S	Т	Y	D	T	D
G	D	E	N	I	L	Р	I	С	S	I	D	V



In the corridor of S. P. Patel High School, a group of students were scrambling to see something. And on the other hand, a similar group of students were arguing and debating about something!

Someone shouted in the background, "Hey, what's this crowd? And what are all these people having such a deep discussion for?"

A reply came, "The reason for this must be on the notice board! Come on, let's go check it out!"

Both reached the notice board. Amidst great commotion, a small space opened up which was just enough to read the message from the principal that read,

"This year the 'Student of the Year' award will be based on new criteria! So students, study well for the whole year!"

Aditya got lost in thought. His friend Rohan was standing next to him. He put his hand on Aditya's shoulder and said, "Hey Aditya! Why do you look so worried? Either way, every year the 'Student of the Year' award goes to... only you!"

Aditya replied, "Oh, come on! I am not worried. Anyways, there is no one that can take my place in this school! I was just thinking about what will be different this year."

A friend named Adarsh who was standing there said, "Aditya my friend! As hard as it is to achieve success, it is even harder to sustain it. Anyway, let's go to class, it's time". Everyone went to class and sat down.

Aditya Oberoi! A son of a big businessman! Proud of his father's money, and clever in studies as well! He would get the 'Student of the Year' award every year. At school, many followed him around and some were jealous of him. But Aditya had it all, and nothing else mattered to him.

The class was about to start. A new student with oily hair, wearing thick glasses and an oversized shirt entered the

class. Some were impressed by his confident look, while others started making fun of him. However, his face was very calm and pleasant. He looked for a place to sit in front, but no one budged. Everyone pushed him to the last bench saying "Four-eyes, go to the back."

"Hey...there's room on this side, come over" came a voice from the last bench. He went to the side and sat there

"Hi! I am Shankar. Is today your first day? What is your name?"

"Yes. I am from Ahmedabad. My name is Anuj." said the new student.

"My maternal uncle also lives in Ahmedabad. Want to be friends?" said Shankar enthusiastically.

"Why not? Everyone in this class is my friend anyways." Anuj said with the same smile.

"No, not everyone here can be friends." Shankar whispered in his ear.

"Why not?" questioned Anuj.

"You will come to know everything slowly." On the very first day, Shankar did not want to intimidate Anui, so he avoided talking about it.

Right then, the teacher of mathematics, Mr. Upadhyaya, entered the class. Suddenly there was pin drop silence.

"Good morning, everyone!"

"Good morning, sir!"

"So, did you all read the notice?" Everyone nodded 'Yes' eagerly, thinking that the teacher was about to give some more details about it. But instead, he started writing math problems on the board. Then he turned back and said, "Come on, a pop quiz! Let's see who can finish first. Your time starts now. Get Set Go!"

In such a pop quiz, the teacher would be proud of whoever wins. So everyone got busy solving the math problems. Mr. Upadhyaya sat in a chair and observed everyone. His sight fell on the last bench, where Anuj was sitting calmly.

"New boy, last bench! Don't you have to work on the problems? Why are you sitting like this?" asked the teacher.

"Sir, it's done!" Anuj said politely.

"What? So soon? Bring it here so I can check it." The teacher extended his hand and wanted to see Anui's notebook. Everyone in the class laughed. But while the teacher was writing the problems on the board, Anuj had written them down and solved them. The teacher was shocked to see his notebook.

"All of them are correct! And you solved them so fast! Very good. What is your name, son?"

"Anuj..."

"New admission?"

"Yes sir!"

"Nice! Did everyone see that? You too must become a genius in mathematics like him."

The entire class was impressed with Anuj, except one student. Aditya! For the first time, he was jealous because someone else got the title of genius besides him.

The teacher started praising Anuj in class every day. Not only the math teacher, but teachers of other subjects also raved about Anuj. The students who were hanging around Aditya started to hang around Anuj.

Aditya's hatred towards Anuj increased due to jealousy and competition. One day, after class, he came to Anuj and said, "Why are you going around trying to prove that you are clever? All this drama will not last long here. If anyone is the best student in this school it's Aditya Oberoi! Got it?"

Anuj was surprised by Aditya's behavior. He politely asked, "Aditya, I am sorry, but I didn't understand. I am not here to prove anything. And we are friends!"

"I am not your friend. Now we are competitors. Let's see who wins on the battlefield!"

"War? Dear Aditya, in my eyes, school is a temple for learning, in which we should study together, not start a war!"

"The war has already begun," Aditya said as he left.

Now all of Aditya's efforts were to prove that he was superior to Anuj. On the other hand, Shankar, Rohan, and Adarsh all were fed up with Aditya's arrogant attitude and became Anuj's best friends.

Anuj Choksi's father was a government officer. Anuj was interested in spirituality and religion from childhood. Since childhood, he had a helping nature. He would always think of how he could be helpful to others. He used to help his parents with household chores. He would complete his work sincerely. On his birthday, he would give food and clothes to people in need.

Aditya could not tolerate Anuj's growing popularity. All his good friends



lefthim and some bad students became his friends. He turned to addiction to soothe his inner burning. He became irregular in school. His anger grew. He stopped helping friends whom he used to take pride in helping earlier. His reputation fell in the eyes of his teachers. Seeing his state, Anuj felt deeply that he wanted to help Aditya come out of this fire of jealousy.

Months passed. Then the COVID pandemic started all over the world. The country was locked down and schools were closed. People were afraid to go out of the house. In such a situation, all the members of Aditya's house got COVID. Aditya could not leave the house. In this situation, how wouldhe be able to arrange for food and medicine? Aditya sought help from all his friends, but no one was ready to help. On the contrary, many started saying, 'This is great. Now he will come to his senses.' Anuj came to know about this. His heart was filled with concern. He knew that Aditya would not believe him if he went to help directly. So, he delivered medicines to Aditya's house by having Shankar in between. Through Adarsh, Aditya got in touch with the doctor. He arranged a tiffin for all the members of the house, and he asked Rohan to deliver the tiffin. Sometimes he would put it outside the house and leave after ringing the bell. Gradually all of them recovered.

Aditya felt like thanking his friends for their help. When everything became normal, he invited Shankar, Rohan, and Adarsh to eat at a restaurant. Immediately Shankar asked, "Won't you call Anuj?"

"Anuj? Why him?" Aditya's anger was still the same.

"Aditya, if it wasn't for Anuj, none of us would have helped you." Adarsh told him the whole story, how Anuj had been helping behind the scenes by keeping them in the front. Aditya was not ready to believe this. But Rohan had saved some of Anuj's messages and he showed them to Aditya.

Aditya felt very remorseful knowing that the one he thought was an enemy turned out to be a true friend. He went straight to Anuj's house with his friends, and apologized sincerely. Anuj embraced him with love. Jealousy was now replaced by friendship in Aditya's heart.

The year had come to an end. The principal gathered everyone and said, "Children, we will not decide who will get the award this year. But you will! You are the one who will vote for the student who in your opinion deserves this award."

The whole school voted. Finally, Anuj got the "Student of the Year" award and Aditya got a true friend!



### **Youth Experience**

This a story from when I was studying in a government engineering college. In one class we had a very difficult topic. That topic was to be taught by a teacher, but he could not teach it properly. He knew it, but could not explain it. So, the students with me used to make fun of him and say, "He doesn't know this at all. Who made him a teacher?"

But I didn't think it was right to make such jokes. Based on the understanding from satsang of not being disrespectful towards our teachers, my intents for the professor didn't spoil at all. Then it so happened that in that subject I started to understand everything gradually. A topic that no one in the class understood, I understood only on the basis of humility.

So, no matter the teacher, if we respect him, then any difficult subject can be understood.

- Ashutosh Chauhan (Vadodara)

### **Practical Wisdom is Needed Along With Education**







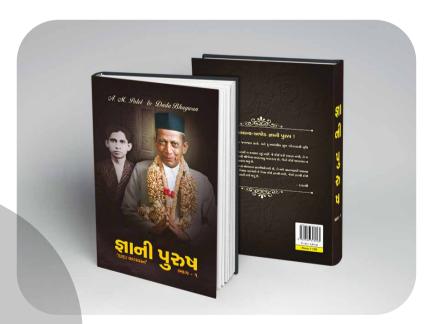
**Questioner:** Dada, I have also seen those who study school books come first in class and yet, when they come into practical life, there is nothing there, the end.

**Dadashri:** There wouldn't be anything there, not even a little. A jack-of-all-trades would have a lot. He would be staying at home and studying, and yet at the same time he would be thinking from within, 'How much income do my parents have? How much expense do they have? How much hardship do they face?' He would be aware of all that and buy only a few text books to start with. He would make it easier for his parents. Whereas a jack of only one trade would have no clue of all that, would he?

They used to call me a jack-of-all-trades. I shouldn't be revealing this, but I am right now. A jack-of-all-trades would continue studying everything and do all kinds of work. He would even continue to look after his parents. He wouldn't do just one kind of work, he would be aware of everything. 'What is the financial state of my parents? How does the money come and where does it go? What difficulties would they be facing?' He would be aware of all this.

Whereas for these other children, if their parents say, "I'm not feeling well. At least think about that." The children will say, "Should I go to school or think about you?" For a jack-of-all-trades, it is indeed in his mind that, I will come home early from school and do seva of my parents.'

And today's children don't even do seva, do they? But they are not worth criticizing. These children are good. Its because of them that good things are going to happen. Now god-like children are going to be born to them! They may not be god-like, but now god-like children will be born.



### **Qualities of an Ideal Student**

 He respects his guru and teacher.



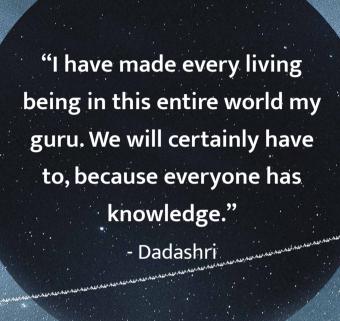


- He respects his elders.
- He pleases his parents and earns their blessings.
- He adjusts with everyone at home.
- He behaves in such a way that his brothers and sisters don't feel hurt by him.





 He doesn't become jealous or compete within his friend circle.





Questioner: These days we hear a lot of negative things about teachers in schools and colleges. For example, teachers do not teach properly, they teach only to earn money, they have bad habits, etc. What should we keep in mind in such situations?

Aptaputra: The main point is, what is our goal when we go to school or college? We want to acquire knowledge. We should not disrespect our teachers, even if they have some faults. What is our goal? We want to acquire knowledge. When will we acquire knowledge? We cannot acquire knowledge unless we have humility. The one who sees the teacher's faults will have to come out of this on his own. He will have to overcome this bad habit. Our teacher has more knowledge than us, that is why he is our teacher, and we are his student. Where should we focus? We should focus on

what it is that we want to acquire and not on the character of the teacher. It does not matter how the teacher is, but if we are humble, then we will definitely acquire knowledge. So, we should be careful not to disrespect our teacher.

**Questioner:** Some people do gain knowledge and make good progress, even if they do not respect their teachers.

**Aptaputra:** They may get success, but that is not permanent success. It may seem as though their graph is moving upwards, but circumstances can change anytime. No one will always get favor-

able circumstances. Circumstances can change any time. When they come across unfavorable circumstances, they will not have the humility to face those circumstances.

**Questioner:** How do we see the positives of our teachers? What are the benefits of that?

Aptaputra: We should have a positive outlook. There are two sides to every person, one positive and another negative. If we focus only on the person's negative side, then we won't achieve anything. We won't benefit from that. No matter how many negatives a person has, he will always have some positives. If we see those positives and encourage them, then those positive virtues will arise in us as well and we will achieve something. So, we should only focus on the positives. We should not see their faults.

**Questioner:** What should we do to protect ourselves from bad company in college?

**Aptaputra:** If we want to protect ourselves from bad company, then we should set our goal. 'What do I want to

achieve? What career do I want? Do I want to waste my life in addictions or do I want to achieve something positive?' Lot's of people do drugs, drink alcohol and have other addictions in college. We should see the end result of that. What do they achieve in life? They go down the path of destroying their lives. It may look good in the beginning, but overall, their graph will go down. If one does not have bad company, if he is in satsang, if he is a positive student, then his graph will slowly but steadily rise up. Bad company will destroy our life. We should be careful of bad company.



No matter how many negatives a person has, he will always have some positives. If we see those positives and encourage them, then those positive virtues will arise in us as well and we will achieve something.

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### Poem



Vidyarthi avastha, je yuvani tano suvarn kaal che... Sauthi mahatva ni jaruriyat eni, vinay vishaal che...

Shikshak ho ke pachi mummy pappa badha jena thi khush rahe... na swachand na uddhatai ke man ma na ena jara dwesh rahe...

Anand kshanik khatar e chetare nahi potani jaat ne... Kayam sincere rahe je haath ma lidheli harek vaat ne...

Healthy che mind ane man pan emna khub noble che... nathi aa yuvan kuva na dedka, khara arth ma global che...

Shreshta yuvan ej che jene suz pade che harek dishani... Aaspaas ni paristhiti ni, javabdaari maata-pita ni...

Kaadhi nakhe kaam jo dornaar male koi saacha anubhavi... Chalo pratyaksh Gnani chindhya marge kandaarie have kedi navi...







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#### **New GNC Logo**

