



Goodness

June 17th 2013

Goodness is described in the dictionary as being moral excellence - the quality of doing what is right and avoiding what is wrong.

As we grow up we start to learn what is right and what is wrong. Babies often throw their food on the floor, they don't know any better. But, I bet that if you tried throwing your food on the floor at home now your parents would be fairly angry. That is because you now know better, you understand that throwing food on the floor is wrong.

What is considered right and wrong can change from culture to culture. Here in the UK it is common practice for elderly people to live in shelter accommodation when they are unable, or do not wish to live alone. However, in China there is a tradition that is right thing to do to look after your elderly relative by having them live with you.

Can you think of any more examples of cultural differences in morals?

Do you agree with all our cultural rights and wrongs?

I did a Bad Thing Once by Allan Ahlberg

I did a bad thing once
I took this money from my mother's purse
For bubble gum
What made it worse
She bought me some
For being good, while I'd been vice versa
So to speak – that made it worser.

Blame by Allan Ahlberg

Graham, look at Maureen's leg,
She says you tried to tattoo it!
I did, Miss, yes – with my biro,
But Jonathan told me to do it.

Graham, look at Peter's sock,
It's got a burn hole through it!
It was just an experiment, miss, with the lens.
Jonathan told me to do it.

Alice's bag is stuck to the floor,
Look, Graham, did you glue it?
Yes, but I never thought it would work,
And Jonathan told me to do it.

Jonathan, what's all this I hear,
About you and Graham Prewitt?
Well, Miss, it's really more his fault:
He *tells* me to tell him to do it!

New Boy by Gareth Owen

He stood alone in the playground
Scuffed his shoes and stared at the ground
He'd come half-way through term from the Catholic School
On the other side of town.

He's a brand new blazer and cap on
Polished shoes and neatly cut hair
Blew on his fists, looked up and half smiled
Pretending he didn't care.

And I remembered when I'd been new
And no-one had spoken to me
I'd almost cried as I stood alone
Hiding my misery.

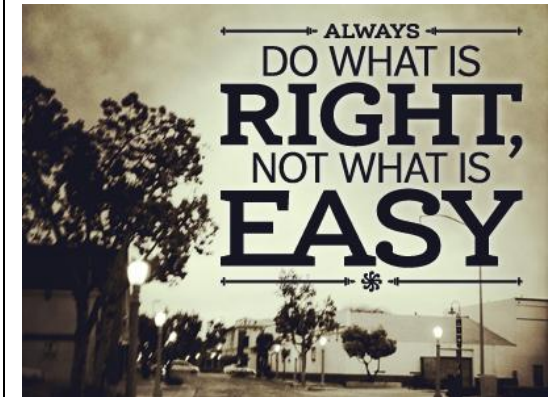
Heart said I should go over
Share a joke or play the fool
But I was scared of looking stupid
In front of the rest of the school.

At break someone said they'd seen him
Crying in the Geography test
And when he came out they pointed and laughed
And I laughed along with the rest

In my dreams I'd always stood alone
Believing I was the best
But in the cold playground of everyday life
I was no better than the rest.

Virtue is bold, and goodness never fearful.

William Shakespeare



Doing what is right it not always easy. Often it can be hard to make the right choice, especially if we are responding to someone who has done something wrong to us.

Often we can be very concerned with how people treat us, and we can claim that 'it is not fair' when we are not treated right by someone. But are we as concerned that all our actions are fair?

When we do what is right and treat the people around us with consideration and care we create an environment that is nicer not just for those around us but also for ourselves.



Thought for the day

