

# Joyful or Regretful

Good morning teachers, boys and girls,

I begin my speech with a story:

Once upon a time, a group of travelers joined a fortune-seeking tour. They wished to find good luck in their journey. They expected that God would appear to them and then give them great blessings.

A few days after they had started their journey, the travelers came near a large forest. As they were passing through the forest, suddenly a light from the sky flashed around them. They were all frightened and fell to the ground. At the same time, they heard a voice saying to them, "Go and collect stones on the ground. Select only those round and smooth stones. Then, try to fill up all your bags with as many stones as you can. You will be either joyful or regretful when you complete your journey."

The light disappeared. The surroundings soon became quiet again. The travelers got up from the ground and opened their eyes. They could see many stones, big and small, scattered on the ground ahead of them. Some travelers began to select stones and then put them in their bags, but some refused to do so.

They continued their journey while some of them continued to collect stones day after day, while some did not do so.

On the day when the travelers completed their journey, they found that some of them had filled up their bags with thousands of stones, some got only a few stones and some did not get any stones. They opened their bags before their group was dismissed. To their great surprise, they found that all of the stones in their bags were changed to precious diamonds. The travelers who had got thousands of precious diamonds were extremely joyful, but those who had got only few diamonds or nothing were extremely regretful.

Boys and girls, you all are like the travelers in the story. You will be staying with the school for some years ahead of you.

The travelers heard a voice advising them to collect stones. Likewise, your teachers always tell you to study hard and learn more.