

I learnt a lesson at home....

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I was in class VI then. It was vacation. One day I was sitting and watching TV.

“Why are you so lazy? Haa!” I got frightened and looked up. My mother was standing behind angry.

“Just look at Jyotilu and Sanjini! They are so hard working. They even know how to save money, and to take care of themselves.” Her expressions were furious.

I felt very angry. I stood up and shouted back. “Then why don’t you make them your daughters? If you always scold, then just kill me and throw away from house...”

“What did you say??” My mother picked up a lock stick and swung it on me. ‘Swoosh! Swoosh!’ the stick fell on me. “Aayiaaa!

The stick fell again and again. “Aiya Aah!” I wailed.

Just then, my grandfather came running and pulled me away from, mother. “Don’t beat her! She’s just 12 years! What will she know? She’s just a child!”

I was sobbing. Everyone was quiet.

I walked away into my room. My mummy, grandpa and grandma were looking at me sadly. I collapsed onto my bed and sobbed more loudly.

After some time, I felt someone was sitting on my bed. I opened my eyes and saw my grandma. She took my head in her lap and said gently, “Samaai *, why did you shout at your Anu**?”

I went on sobbing, but tried to control my tears.

She spoke softly, “You should not speak rudely to anyone. Your parents always take care of you; they always want you to learn good manners. They love you from the core of their hearts.”

As she was about to continue, I hugged her tightly and cried.

Grandma kissed me and said sweetly, “Samaai, go and say sorry to Anu.”

I got up slowly from my bed and wiped the tears. Then I went slowly near Anu. She was sad. I went close to her. She pulled my hand and hugged me tightly.

“Anoo ..., please forgive me. From today, I will not speak to you roughly.”

Anu hugged me more tightly and began to cry. Then my grandpa and grandma came and sat down nearby. Suddenly they started laughing. Soon we joined them and all of us had a hearty laugh.

From that day, I always help my mother and respect my elders.

Samaai * --- ‘Daughter’ , in our Mishmi language

*Anu*** means ‘Mother’