

UNIT-2

Chapter-1 : VALUES AND DISPOSITIONS

A Tale of Valour: Major Somnath Sharma and the Battle of Badgam

About the Chapter : This chapter tells the brave story of Major Somnath Sharma, the first Indian soldier to receive the Param Vir Chakra. In 1947, he led a small group of soldiers to protect Srinagar from a much larger enemy force. He showed great courage and leadership. Even though he was injured, he refused to leave the battlefield. He gave his life for the country. His actions helped save Kashmir and his story still inspires people today.

Major Somnath Sharma : The central figure of the story; a brave Indian Army officer who led D Company and became the first recipient of the Param Vir Chakra for his heroic actions in the Battle of Badgam.

The Soldiers of D Company : The 90 soldiers under Major Sharma's command who fought valiantly against around 500 infiltrators.

Pakistani-backed Tribal Invaders : The enemy force trained and supported by Pakistan to capture Srinagar and the Kashmir Valley.

Major General Amar Nath Sharma : Major Somnath Sharma's father, a distinguished military officer, symbolising the family's legacy of service.

Indian Army Reinforcement Troops : Including soldiers from the Punjab Regiment, who arrived after the resistance to support the defense of Srinagar.

Chapter Summary :

The chapter begins as a tribute to Major Somnath Sharma, India's first recipient of the Param Vir Chakra, whose courage and sacrifice have become a lasting symbol of patriotism. His name is honoured in stories, memorials and celebrations, inspiring generations of Indians.

In October 1947, Pakistan launched Operation Gulmarg, sending tribal invaders into Jammu and Kashmir with the goal of capturing key areas like Srinagar airport. This was in violation of the peace agreement with Maharaja Hari Singh. The invasion forced the princely state to accede to India.

On 27 October, 1947, India airlifted troops to defend Kashmir. Among them was D Company of the 4th Battalion, Kumaon Regiment, led by Major Somnath Sharma, who insisted on joining despite a fractured arm, showcasing his deep commitment to his men and mission.

Due to suspected enemy movement near Badgam, a village close to Srinagar airport, Indian troops were sent to patrol. On 3rd November, 1947, Major Sharma's company stayed back last and soon faced a surprise attack by a large group of Pakistani-backed tribal invaders.

Although vastly outnumbered-90 Indian soldiers against 500 infiltrators-Major Sharma and his men held their ground with great bravery. He led from the front, directing fire and requesting air support, even while injured and under intense attack.

As ammunition ran low and pressure increased, Major Sharma was urged to retreat. But he refused, saying, "I shall not withdraw an inch but will fight to the last man and the last round." He was killed by a mortar shell shortly after, while helping a machine gunner in a trench.

Despite the loss of their leader, D Company resisted for over six hours, buying time for reinforcements. Their effort prevented the fall of Srinagar and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. Major Sharma's actions were crucial in safeguarding Kashmir.

The chapter also reflects on Major Sharma's early life-from his birth in Himachal Pradesh, military training in Sandhurst, to his service in World War II. His values of discipline, courage and patriotism were shaped early and lived fully.

Major Somnath Sharma's story is a powerful reminder of the price of freedom. His sacrifice ensured that India's flag flew high over Srinagar and his name is now etched in the National War Memorial, serving as a guiding light for future generations.

CHAPTER-2: (Values and dispositons)**Somebody's Mother** (by Mary Dow Brine)

About the Chapter : The poem 'Somebody's Mother' tells the touching story of an old, poor woman struggling to cross a snowy street, ignored by the crowd. A kind schoolboy stops to help her, thinking of his own mother, showing empathy and kindness to a stranger.

Stanza-wise Explanation**Stanza 1:**

The woman was old and ragged and grey , And bent with the chill of the Winter's day.

The street was wet with a recent snow, And the woman's feet were aged and slow.

Explanation : This stanza introduces us to an elderly woman. She is described as old, dressed in torn and shabby clothes and has grey hair. She is hunched over, likely due to both age and the cold winter weather. The street is wet and slippery because it has recently snowed. Her movements are slow and weak, showing how fragile and helpless she is in such harsh conditions.

Stanza 2:

She stood at the crossing and waited long, Alone, uncared for, amid the throng

Of human beings who passed her by, Nor heeded the glance of her anxious eye.

Explanation : The woman stands at a street crossing, waiting for someone to help her cross. She is surrounded by a crowd but no one stops or notices her. Despite her worried and pleading glances, the people remain indifferent and simply walk past her. This highlights society's lack of compassion and how the elderly often feel invisible and neglected.

Stanza 3:

Down the street, with laughter and shout, Glad in the freedom of 'school let out',

Came the boys like a flock of sheep, Hailing the snow piled white and deep.

Explanation : A group of schoolboys appears, joyfully running and playing as school has just ended. They are full of energy and excitement, like a flock of playful sheep. They are happy to be free and enjoy the snow, unaware of the woman's presence or her need for help. This contrast shows the carefree spirit of youth and the struggles of old age.

Stanza 4:

Past the woman so old and grey , Hastened the children on their way.

Nor offered a helping hand to her, So meek, so timid, afraid to stir

Explanation : The children rush past the old woman without even thinking of stopping. No one offers to help her, although she looks scared and helpless. She is too timid and fearful to step onto the road by herself, afraid of getting hurt. This stanza emphasises how people, even children, often overlook the needs of the elderly.

Stanza 5 :

Lest the carriage wheels or the horses' feet, Should crowd her down in the slippery street.

At last came one of the merry troop, The gayest lad of all the group;

Explanation : The woman fears being hit or run over by the wheels of carriages or horses if she tries to cross the road. After everyone else has ignored her, finally one cheerful and lively boy from the group notices her. He is described as the 'gayest laddie', meaning he is the happiest and most spirited of all the boys.

Stanza 6 :

He paused beside her and whispered low, 'I'll help you cross, if you wish to go.'

Her aged hand on his strong young arm, She placed and so, without hurt or harm,

Explanation : The kind boy stops and speaks gently to the woman, offering to help her cross the road. She accepts his offer by placing her weak, aged hand on his strong arm. Thanks to his support, she crosses safely, without falling or being hurt. This moment of kindness stands out in the poem.

Stanza 7 :

He guided the trembling feet along, Proud that his own were firm and strong.

Then back again to his friends he went, His young heart happy and well content.

Explanation : The boy carefully leads the woman across, noticing how her feet tremble with fear and weakness. He feels proud that he has the strength and confidence to help someone in need. After helping her, he returns to his friends, feeling happy and deeply satisfied by his good deed.

Stanza 8 :

'She's somebody's mother, boys, you know, For all she's aged and poor and slow',
'And I hope some fellow will lend a hand, To help my mother, you understand',

Explanation : The boy tells his friends that the old *woman is someone's mother, even if she looks poor and weak. He relates her situation to his own mother and hopes that if she is ever in such a condition, someone would be kind enough to help her too. This shows the boy's empathy and mature thinking.

Stanza 9 :

'If ever she's poor and old and grey, When her own dear boy is far away.'
And 'somebody's mother' bowed low her head, In her home that night and the prayer she said

Explanation : The boy imagines a future where his own mother might be old, poor and alone while he is far away. Meanwhile, the old woman reaches her home and thinks about the kindness she received. She bows her head in prayer, grateful for the help and kindness shown to her.

Stanza 10 :

Was 'God be kind to the noble boy, Who is somebody's son and pride and joy!'

Explanation : The old woman prays for the young boy, asking God to bless him. She calls him a noble boy someone full of goodness and kindness-and acknowledges that he must be the pride and joy of his parents. Her prayer reflects the emotional impact of the boy's simple act of humanity.

CHAPTER-3 : (Values and dispositons)
Verghese Kurien-I Too Had a Dream
 **By V. Kurien)**

About the Chapter : The chapter 'Verghese Kurien-I Too Had a Dream' is a touching letter from Kurien to his grandson, where he shares his life journey and the values that guided him. He talks about his decision to serve farmers, the importance of honesty and hard work and encourages the next generation to contribute to the nation's progress.

Verghese Kurien: A visionary leader who dedicated his life to serving dairy farmers and building India.

Siddharth: Kurien's grandson, to whom the letter is addressed, symbolising the future generation.

Kurien's Wife : A strong and supportive partner who stood by him during his journey in Anand.

Tribhuvandas Patel : Kurien's mentor who inspired and guided him in the cooperative dairy movement.

Summary of the Chapter :

Verghese Kurien writes a personal and emotional letter to his grandson, Siddharth, from Anand in 2005. He explains how writing a letter is more meaningful than talking over the phone, as it can be read and cherished for years. He hopes that Siddharth will read it again in the future to understand his life and choices better.

Kurien shares how he started his work-life just after India gained independence. At that time, many young people, including him, felt the desire to build a strong, independent India. His dream was of a country free from hunger and poverty, where people live with respect and love for one another.

Although Kurien could have pursued a successful career in engineering, the army or abroad, fate led him to Anand. There, he got involved with a small dairy cooperative. Even though this was not his original plan, he chose to dedicate his life to improving the lives of rural farmers. This decision changed the course of his life completely.

Kurien talks about how important his wife was in his life. Living in Anand was not easy at that time but she stayed with him. Her support gave him the courage to keep working, even when things were hard. She believed in his dream and wanted to help build a better India.

Kurien explains that his achievements were not just personal, but the result of teamwork and strong values. He talks about integrity-being honest with yourself and others-as the most important value. He learned these values from his parents and his mentor, Tribhuvandas Patel, who guided him in Anand.

He gives thoughtful advice to Siddharth and the younger generation. Kurien believes that life is a gift and should not be wasted. He encourages young people to use their talents, take responsibility and always contribute to the common good. He reminds us that even small acts of help in daily life matter.

Kurien points out that success doesn't always bring happiness. Many people compare themselves with others, but often they only see the surface. True happiness comes from being thankful and doing meaningful work-not from wealth or fame.