GRADED HOME READING BOOKS

THIRD SERIES

4964

WHERE LOVE IS GOD IS

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No. 16 dated 19-4-1960

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GRADED HOME READING BOOKS

STANDARD IX SERIES

BOOK II

WHERE LOVE IS, GOD IS

LEO TOLSTOY

4964

EDITED BY

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VIPVI ISLAM HIGH SCHOOL
Date.....

WHERE LOVE IS, GOD IS

1. THE SHOE-MAKER

There lived in a certain town in Russia an old shoe-maker named Martin. He lived in a small room in the lower part of a house. There were steps down into his room from the street. His room had only one window and this, of course, had glass in it because Russian winters are very cold. Through this window he could see only the feet of those who passed by. If he bent down, he could see more.

Martin knew people by the shoes they wore. He had been living in that town for a long time and had many friends. There was not a pair of shoes

in that place which he had not made or repaired; so he often saw his own shoes through the window. Many he had made; and most of them he had repaired. He had plenty of work to do, for he worked well, used only good things and did not ask people to pay too much. His word could be trusted. If he could do a piece of work by the day named, he took it. If he could not, he told the truth and did not undertake it. So he was well-known and was never short of work.

Martin was a good man. He was kind to his neighbours and feared God. In his old age he began to think more about his soul and God. Many years before his wife had died, leaving him a son who was only a year old. None of his elder children had lived;

all of them had died in their first year.

When his wife died, Martin thought of sending his little son to his sister who lived in a small village far away. But when he looked upon the sweet face of the little boy, he could not think of sending him away.

"It will be hard," said he, "for my little boy to live in a strange family; so I will keep him with me."

Martin did not send away his little son and they lived together in the old town. But he had no luck with his children. When the boy was old enough to help his father and be a joy to him in his old age, he fell ill. He was in bed for a week with fever and then died.

Martin buried his son and gave way to sorrow. He was so filled with

P3P4

grief that he thought that God was not good to him. In his sorrow he called upon God to take him too so that he might be with his beloved son. After this, he stopped praying to God and did not go to church.

Before the boy's death, Martin used to go to church every Sunday. He was a God-fearing man and knew the joy of prayer.

The years passed and Martin could not forget his sorrow. Then one day an old man from his own village, came to see him. He was a pilgrim who went about from one holy place to another. Eight years earlier he had left his home and during that period he had gone to many famous churches and prayed to God.

4964

Martin was pleased to see his old friend and opened his heart to him. He told him about his son's death and his great sorrow.

"I do not wish to live," he said, "God has taken away the son I loved, while I, an old man, am left alive. All I ask of Him is that I too may die. I am now without any hope in the world."

The old man heard his words and was filled with pity for his poor friend.

"You must not speak like this about God, Martin," he said. "We do not know God's ways. Everything is done as God wills, not as we wish. If God willed that your son should die and you should live, it must be so. And it is best. If you are without hope

it is your own fault. It is because you want to live for your own happiness."

"What else should I live for?" asked Martin.

"For God," answered the old man. "You must live for God. He gave you life, so you must live for Him. When you live for Him, there will be no sorrow and you will be happy."

Martin was silent for some time. Then he asked, "How can I live for God?"

The old man said, "Christ has taught us how we may live for God. Don't you know how to read? Then buy the Bible and read. Then you will learn how God want's you to live. It is written in the Bible.

Those words sank deep into Martin's heart. On the same day he went out, bought for himself a Bible in large print and began to read.

At first he meant to read only on Sundays. But when once he began reading, he could not stop. It made him forget his sorrow and he felt happy. So he read every day. Sometimes he went on reading, till the oil in his lamp was burnt out. He read the Bible every night and when he read it, he learned what God wanted him to do and how he might live for God. His heart grew lighter and lighter.

Before, whenever he went to bed, he felt unhappy. He thought of his beloved son who was dead and it made him very sad. But now he thought of

God and His power. And he said again and again, "Glory to Thee, glory to Thee, O Lord! Thy will be done!"

From that time Martin's life began to change.

TEST:— Complete the following sentences choosing the right words from those given brackets.

1. Martin was a ——
   (teacher, pilgrim, shoe-maker)
2. His wife died leaving him an only —— .
   (daughter, son)
3. The boy —— when he was old enough to help him.
   (went to school, died, ran away)
4. Martin was filled with sorrow and stopped going to ——.
   (work, church, his friend)
5. One day an old —— came to him and he told him his grief.
   (priest, pilgrim, friend)
6. The old man advised Martin to live for——.
   (his country, God, his son)

7. He told him to read —— to learn how to live for Him.
(the Bible, story books)
8. Martin bought the Bible and when he read it, he felt ——.
(happy, unhappy, sad)

UNNAYI ISLAM HIGH SCHOOL Date..... ERNAKULAM.

2. THE VOICE

The days passed and Martin became a changed man. Formerly he used to go out in the evening. Sometimes he went to the public house to drink with a friend. He never got really drunk; but the wine would make him merry and he would say foolish things. Sometimes he would shout at a man and quarrel with him. Now all these things passed away from him. He never went to the public house. He never touched wine. His life became peaceful and joyful. He sat

down to his work early in the morning and when the day's work was over he took the Bible and sat down to read. As the days went by his life became more happy and peaceful.

One day Martin sat up late reading the Bible. He was reading the story of Jesus Christ written by St. Luke. It was so interesting that he did not notice that it was very late in the night.

In the sixth chapter of Luke he read the words :

'To him who beats you on one cheek, turn also the other. To him who takes away your cloak, give your coat also. Give to every man who asks you. And from him that takes away your goods, don't ask them back again. And as you wish that other men should do to you, do you also to them in the same way.'

He also read these words of Jesus,

'And why do you call me Lord, and do not do the things which I say? Anyone who comes to me and hears my sayings and does them, I will show you to whom he is like. He is like a man who built a house on a rock. Then the rain and the storm came; but they could not shake it. for it was built on a rock. But he that hears me and does not do what I tell him is like a man who built his house upon sand. And when the heavy rain came, it fell and the loss was great.'

When Martin read these words, he was filled with joy. He put the book down and sat thinking for a long time.

"Is my house built on rock or on sand?" he asked himself. "Do I live as Jesus wants me to live?"

Then he called back to mind how he had lost his wife and son and how he had thought evil thoughts against God.

"Let me not sin again," said he

to himself. "Help me, O, Lord!"

He thought all this and was about to go to bed. But he was unwilling to stop reading the Bible. So he went on reading and read the seventh chapter.

He read how a proud man invited Jesus to his house and when the Lord went to him, he did not wash His feet. But a woman who was a sinner went to Him, washed His feet with her tears and Jesus blessed her.

When Martin read the story he thought, "I am like that proud man who only thought of himself. If Jesus came to me, would I be like that man?"

Then Martin laid his head upon his arms and before he knew it, he fell asleep.

"Martin!" he suddenly heard a voice calling out to him.

He woke up from his sleep and looked round to see who it was that called him.

AVIDYA ISLAM HIGH SCHOOL

"Who is there?" he cried.

He turned round and looked at the door. No one was there.

So he called again.

Then he heard quite clearly someone saying, "Martin, Martin! Look out into the street tomorrow, for I shall come."

Martin rose up from his place and looked round. He was not sure whether he had heard these words in a dream or while awake. He put out the lamp and went to bed.

Next morning he rose up early

in the morning and, after saying his prayers, cooked food for the day. Then he sat down by the window to work. As he sat working, the words he heard the night before came back to his mind.

So he looked out into the street and whenever anyone went by, he rose up to see who it was. Presently an old soldier came that way. Martin saw his boots through the window and and knew him by his boots.

The old man was called Stepanich. He lived in the house of a kind merchant and helped his master to clean the house. Martin looked at him, and then went on with his work.

"I am becoming foolish," said Martin. "Stepanich comes by and I

think that it is Christ coming to see me. How foolish of me !"

Yet he looked out again. He saw old Stepanich leaning against the wall. The day was cold and snow had fallen.

"I should call him in," thought Martin, "and give him some tea."

So he lit a fire, boiled some water in a pot and made tea. Then he went to the window and called out to Stepanich to come in.

"Come in," he said, "and warm yourself."

Stepanich opened the door and came in.

"God bless you !" he said.

He wiped his feet to shake off the snow.

"Don't wipe your feet," said Martin. "I will wipe up the floor. Come, sit down and have some tea."

He filled two cups with tea, gave one to the old man and took the other for himself.

Stepanich drank the tea and turning the cup upside down he placed it on the table to show that he had had enough. ButMartin knew he would like to have another cup.

"Have some more tea," said he and filled the cup again. Then he refilled his own cup. But as he drank, Martin kept looking out into the street.

"Are you expecting anyone?" asked Stepanich.

"Am I expecting a n y o n e?" Martin said. "Well now, I am

ashamed to tell you, I am not really expecting anyone. But I heard a voice last night. I do not know if it was only a dream. You see; last night I was reading the Bible about Jesus, how he walked on earth. You too have heard tell of it?"

"I have heard tell of it," answered Stepanich, "but I am not an educated man. I do not know how to read."

"Well," said Martin, "I was reading of how He walked on earth. I came to that part where He went to a proud man who did not receive Him well. If He came to me, I thought, what I would do to receive Him. And as I was thinking of this, I fell fast asleep and then I heard someone call me by name, 'Martin.' He said, 'I

will come to you to-morrow.' I heard the words clearly. And to tell you the truth, I am ashamed of my foolishness. Yet I keep on expecting Him, the dear Lord.

Stepanich shook his head and said nothing. He finished his cup of tea and laid it aside. But Martin refilled it for him.

"Here drink another cup, bless you," said he. "And I was thinking how He went with poor people like you and me. 'He who would be first,' He said, 'let him be the servant of all because blessed are the poor and the humble."

Stepanich forgot his tea. He was a simple old man easily moved to tears. As he sat and listened, the tears ran down his cheeks.

4964

"Come, drink some more," said Martin.

But Stepanich thanked him, moved away his cup and rose to go.

"Thank you, Martin," he said, "you have given me food both for soul and body."

"You are always welcome," said Martin. "Come another time."

Stepanich went away. Martin poured out the last of the tea and drank it up. Then he put away the tea things and sat down to work.

TEST:— Complete the following sentences choosing the right words from those given brackets.

1. Every day Martin read the —— and his heart was ——.
   (story, Bible, sad, glad).

2. One day he sat reading late into the night and he read how —— went to the proud man's house.

(Martin, Jesus, the woman).

3. The proud man —— Him well, and Martin thought how he would receive Him if He came to his house.

(received, did not receive).

4. Then he fell asleep and he heard a voice saying "Martin, I will come to you ——.

(to-night, to morrow, today).

5. The next morning as Martin sat working he looked out of the window for——.

(his friend, Jesus, the poor woman).

6. Then he saw old —— coming along

(merchant, Stepanich, woman).

7. Martin invited him into the house and gave him ——.

(food, tea, wine).

8. He told him how he was expecting —— to come that day.

(Stepanich, Jesus, the soldier).

9. Then —— went away and —— sat down to work.

(Jesus, Martin, Stepanich).

3. MOTHER AND CHILD

When Stepanich was g o n e, Martin sat down on his workbench and began to repair a shoe. Yet he kept looking out into the street as if he was still expecting someone.

Two soldiers went by. Then a rich neighbour in shining boots came along. Martin knew him by his boots, for he had made them. Another man passed by carrying a basket. All these passed on.

Then a woman came up. She had the kind of shoes that poor women use. She came along, passed the window and then stopped. Martin looked at her through the window and saw that she came from some other town. She was poorly dressed and had

a baby in her arms. She stopped by the roadside and covered up the baby with a piece of cloth. But she had no warm clothes. Through the window, Martin heard the baby crying. It was very cold and the poor mother could not keep her child warm.

Martin rose and opening the door he called out to her.

"Mother," he called, "mother ....."

The woman heard and turned round.

"Why do you stand out in the cold with the little baby in your arms?" he asked. "Come in. It is warm here. Come this way."

The woman was surprised to see Martin calling to her and she went in.

He led her to his room. "There," said he, "sit down by the fire and warm yourself and feed the baby. I think the child is hungry."

"I haven't any milk," said the woman. "I have eaten nothing for a day."

Yet she put the baby to her breast.

Martin heard her words and rose. He brought out some food and placed it on the table.

"Sit down and eat, my dear," said he. "I'll hold the baby. Why, bless me, I had children of my own and I know how to take care of them."

The woman sat down at the table and began to eat. Martin took the baby in his arms; but he began to

cry. So he put him on the bed and sat down by his side. But the baby did not stop crying. So Martin took a piece of red cloth and moved it up and down . Then the baby stopped crying and began to laugh. Martin was very much pleased.

The woman sat eating and as she ate she began to talk. She told him who she was and where she had been.

"I am a soldier's wife," she said. "They sent my man somewhere far away, eight months ago. And I have not heard anything of him after we parted. A rich lady kept me as her cook till my baby was born. Then she sent me away. For three months I have been without work. I have been looking out for a job, but I have

not yet got one. Meanwhile I had to sell everything I had for food."

She began to weep as she said this.

"I tried to go as a wet-nurse," she said, "but no one would have me. They said that I was not healthy and then.....Now I am coming back from a merchant's wife. She had said that she would take me. I thought that I could get work from this morning. But when I met her, she told me to come next week. She lives far away and I am very tired. The baby has nothing to eat. Luckily the woman with whom I live has pity on me. She allows me to live there without paying rent."

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1. Wet nurse—A woman employed to suckle children not her own.

Martin was filled with pity when he heard the story of the poor woman.

"Haven't you got some warm clothing?" he asked her.

"How could I get warm clothing?" she asked. "I had a shawl, but yesterday I sold it to a woman for sixpence."

She had finished eating. After washing her hands, she came and took the child. Martin also got up. He went and looked among his old clothes for something warm to be given to her. He found a woollen cloak and and came back with it.

"Here," said he, "I have got an old cloak. Though it is old and torn, it will keep you warm."

---

1. Shawl—a large piece of woollen cloth to wrap round head and body.

"Thank you," said she. "Thank you very much."

The woman looked at the cloak, then at the old man and, taking it, she began to weep. Martin turned away and bending down, he looked under the bed for his box and his money. He took it and sat down on the bench.

Then the woman said, "God bless you, friend. Surely Christ must have sent me to your window. Or my baby would have died in the cold. It was not so cold when I started. But now it has become very cold. Surely it was Christ who made you look out of the window and take pity on me."

Martin's heart was filled with joy when he heard her words.

He smiled and said, "It is true. It was Jesus who made me look out of the window."

Then he told the woman his dream and how he had heard Jesus telling him that He would come to him the next day.

"Who knows?" said the woman. "There is nothing which He can't do."

Then she got up and covered herself up with the old cloak that Martin had given her. She covered up the baby also. Before going away, she thanked Martin once more.

"Take this for Christ's sake," said Martin giving her sixpence to get back her shawl.

The woman took the money. Again her eyes became wet with tears.

"Jesus, Jesus," she said; "surely it was He who sent me here."

So saying she took leave of Martin and went away taking the baby in her arms.

After she was gone Martin ate some food and cleaned the table. Then he sat down to work again.

ISLAM HIGH SCHOOL
Date.....

TEST:— Complete the following sentences choosing the right words from those given brackets.

1. Martin looked out through the window and saw a —— pass by.
   (boy, woman, girl)

2. She had a —— in her arms.
   (bag, baby)

3. It was very — — and she stopped to cover up the baby.

(warm, cold, hot)

4. The baby was —— and Martin saw that the woman needed help.

(sleeping, crying, laughing)

5. So he called her in and gave her ——, —— and ——.

(tea, food, a shawl, a cloak, shilling, sixpence)

6. The woman said that she was a —— wife and was trying to find some ——.

(merchant's, soldier's, help, work)

7. She thanked Martin and it was —— who made him look out when she passed by.

(Stepanich, Jesus, she)

8. Then the woman, —— with her baby.

(lived there, went away, sat down)

——

4. THE APPLE-WOMAN

As Martin sat working, he kept looking out through the window. His heart was filled with joy and he said to himself, "Glory to Thee, glory to Thee, O Lord! Thy will be done." But he did not forget the window. Whenever he saw a shadow fall, he looked up to see who was coming. Many persons passed by. He knew most of them. But there were some whom he did not know.

After some time an ald apple-woman came and stopped just in front of the window. She had a large basket on her head. But there were

not many apples in it. On her back was a large sack filled with small pieces of wood. She had gathered them at some place where building work was going on. The sack was heavy and it was not easy for her to carry it. So she put it down on the roadside and rested herself awhile.

The old woman had put the basket also on the ground. As she sat there, a boy in a torn shirt came up from behind and took an apple from the basket.

Then he tried to run away. But the old woman had seen him. Turning round she caught him by the arm. The boy tried to escape. Then the woman caught hold of his hair and stopped him from running. The boy

cried aloud and the woman scolded him.

Martin saw it all and ran out into the street. The old woman was still pulling the boy's hair and scolding him.

"Let me go, let me go," cried the boy.

"I won't let you off," said the woman. "I will take you to the police and hand you over to them."

"I did not take your apple," cried the boy. "What are you beating me for? Let me go."

Martin went up to the apple-woman and separated them. He took the boy by the hand and said, "Allow him to go, grandmother. Forgive him for Christ's sake."

The woman was angry. "I'll punish him," she cried. "I'll teach him a lesson which he won't forget. I will hand him over to the police."

Again Martin begged the old woman to forgive the boy.

"Let him go," he said, "he won't do it again."

She let the boy go. But when he tried to run away, Martin stopped him.

"Ask her to forgive you," said Martin. "And don't do it again, I saw you take the apple."

The boy began to cry and asked her to forgive him.

"That is right," said Martin.

Taking an apple from the basket, he gave it to the boy.

"Here's an apple for you," he said to the boy.

He gave it to him and turning to the woman he added, "I will pay you for it."

"You will spoil him this way," said the woman. "He must be beaten so that he may not do it again."

"Oh dear grandmother," said Martin. "That is your way. But is it God's way? If we beat him for taking an apple, what punishment should we get for our sins?"

The old woman said nothing to this.

Then Martin told her a story from the Bible. There was a man who had to get a large sum of money from his servant. He forgave the man freely. But the servant went out to a poor man who owed him a little money and caught him by the throat. He would not forgive that small debt.

The woman heard it all. So did the boy.

"God wants us to forgive," said Martin. "Then only will He forgive us. Forgive everyone and a thoughtless boy most of all."

The old woman was silent.

What you say is true," she said. "Nevertheless you will only spoil them in this way."

"Then we who are older must show them the better way," said Martin.

"That is just what I say," said the old woman. "I had seven children; and only one, a daughter, is left."

Then she told him how and where she lived. She was living with her daughter and had a number of grandchildren.

"There now," said she, "I am very old and have no strength left in me. Yet I work hard for my little grandchildren. They are dear nice little children. My little Annie won't leave me for anyone. 'Grandmother, dear grand-mother,' she says and comes running up to me when I reach home."

Tears came to her eyes when she spoke about her beloved granddaughter.

"Of course it was only his childishness," said she pointing to the boy who had taken her apple.

Then she took the basket on her head, and, putting the sack on her back, she turned to go.

But the boy came forward saying, "Let me carry it for you, grandmother. I am going that way."

The old woman gave the sack to the boy who gladly put it on his back. Together they went down the street. The old woman had forgotton to ask Martin to pay for the apple.

Martin stood watching them as they went along talking to each other.

When they had gone away, Martin went back to his room and sat down to work. He worked for about an hour. Presently he saw that there was little light in the room. He looked out and saw the lamp-lighter lighting the street lamp just then.

"It is time to light up," said he.

So he got up and lit the lamp. Then he put away his tools, cleared the table and swept the floor. After this he took the Bible and began to read it.

As he opened the book, his dream came back to his mind. Just then

he heard footsteps behind him as if someone was coming in.

Martin turned round to see who it was. Then he thought he saw some persons standing in the dark corner. But he could not quite see who they were.

And Behind him he heard a voice saying, "Martin, Martin, don't you know me?"

"Who is it?" Martin asked.

"It is I," said the voice.

And out of the darkness an old man stepped up. In the bright light of the lamp he saw the smiling face.

It was Stepanich!

The old man smiled sweetly, disappeared like a cloud and was not seen again.

"It is I," said the voice again.

And out of the darkness stepped the woman with the baby in her arms. The woman smiled and the baby laughed. The next moment they too disappeared.

"It is I," said the voice once more. And the apple-woman and the boy stepped out. Both of them smiled and then disappeared.

And Martin's heart was glad. He sat down again saying,"Glory to Thee, O Lord,, glory to Theee."

He took the Bible and began to read just where it had opened.

'I was hungry,' he read, 'and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink I was a stranger and you took me in.'

At the end of the page he read.

'Just as you did it to one of these my brothers, even the least important of them, you have done it to ME.'

Then Martin understood that his dream had come true. The Lord Jesus had really come to him that day and he had welcomed Him.

TEST:— Complete the following sentences choosing the right words from those given in brackets.

1. After some time Martin saw —— stop in front of his window.
(a boy, a merchant, an apple-woman)

2. She had a —— of apples with her.
(bag, basket, box).

3. A —— came from behind and stole an apple.
(girl, man, boy).

4. The woman caught him by his hair and —— him.
(thanked, beat).

VIRVI ISLAM HIGH SCHOOL
Date.....
ERNAKULAM.

5. Martin went out and —— them.
(scolded, beat, parted).

6. He gave —— to the boy and asked him to beg her to forgive him.
(a shilling, an apple, a blow).

7. The woman told him about her ——,
(sons, grand-children, sister).

8. He told her that we must —— others, if we wanted God to forgive us.
(help, forgive, punish)

9. The boy helped the woman to carry the ——.
(basket, bag, sack)

10. That night Martin heard the —— again and saw it came from Stepanich, the woman and the ——.
(noise, voice, baby, apple-woman)

11. Martin understood that —— had come to him that day.
(Stepanich, Christ, the boy)

This is a good story

FINAL TEST

Complete the following sentences choosing the right words from those given in brackets.

1. 'Where Love Is, —— Is,' is a story by Leo Tolstoy.
(God, Christ)

2. It teaches us that if we help those in need of help, we do it to ——.
(them, God, us)

3. Martin was a poor —— who lost his only ——.
(merchant, shoe-maker, daughter, son)

4. Martin was unhappy and stopped going to ——.
(school, church, the hospital)

5. One day a —— came to him and advised him to read the ——.
(priest, pilgrim, Bible, story)

6. He bought the Bible and when he read it he was ——.
(sad, happy, unhappy)

7. One day he read the story of —— going to the house of a proud man who did not receive him well.
(God, Jesus, the sinner)

8. He asked himself how he would receive Him if He came to his ——
(town, village, house)

9. Then he heard a voice saying 'I will come to you ——'
(now, to-morrow, next week)

10. Next day, Martin sat looking for —— through the ——.
(him, Him, door, window)

11. —— came that way and Martin gave him ——.
(Stepanich, Jesus, tea, food)

12. Then a poor woman with a —— came and he gave her food, clothing and ——.
(baby, man, money, cloak)

13. Then he saw an apple-woman beating a —— who had stolen her ——.

(girl, boy, sack, apple)

14. Martin separated them and gave an —— to the boy.

(apple, orange, mango)

15. The woman —— the boy and he carried her sack for her.

(punished, forgave, helped)

16. That night Martin opened the Bible and read, 'I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink and I was — and you took me in.'

(poor, a stranger, old)

17. He also read, 'In as much as you have done it to the least of my brothers, you have done it to ——,'

(me, ME, God)

18. Then he understood that —— had come to him that day.

(God, Christ)

19. This story teaches us that where there is ——, there is God.

(help, love, pity)

——

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