the king for mercy – and time to repay – and the king forgave him the whole debt. How very generous! This same servant went away, very pleased, and found one of his fellow servants who owed him *twenty* taka and said, "Where is my money?" and the poor man fell on his knees and begged him for mercy and time to repay - but he said, "No, I want every taka now!" The king heard what the ungrateful servant had done, called for him and said to him, "Because you would not forgive your fellow servant the little money he owed you, I will throw you in prison until you pay every taka of the huge debt that you owe me!" This story helps us to understand how important it is to forgive others, if we expect God to forgive us. We usually think our own wrongdoing to others is very small – and that other people's wrongdoing to us is very great – but think! Maybe God sees it as the other way round.

"I am sorry" *(dukito)* is a very important thing to say. Never marry anyone who cannot say sorry! It is the key to unlocking forgiveness. After the last World War, everyone was very shocked at the evidence of how the German people had treated the Jewish people – killing 6 ½ million of them, of which ½ million were children. The German Chancellor, Willi Brand, visited one of the worst killing camps, called Auschwitz, and at the memorial there commemorating those who died, he fell on his knees. In this, and other ways, the German people said sorry for this and other terrible things that had happened when Hitler was their dictator. That helped the countries of Europe a great deal - and now Germany is friends with those who were her enemies - and Japan also. I have seen this happen in my life-time. It has not been easy – but one side saying sorry and the other side saying, "We forgive you," has helped so much.

A lot of crime here is because of family and other enmity. In every country, people can be very cruel to one another. I ask you to think very seriously about learning how to be a forgiving person as you grow up. It is not easy - but carrying hatred around with you is much harder and your life will suffer because of it.

Hatred is like acid – and it will damage your life. Let there be forgiveness for past wrongs.

God bless you.

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PREPARING FOR EXAMINATIONS

Assembly 61 – Sunday April 13th 2003

I am very surprised to hear that many of you, especially in the Senior School, think so little of your teachers, that you consider that, before examinations, your time is better spent at home trying to revise for your examinations than at school. I am very surprised because some of you find it difficult to organise half an hour's homework at home, never name several days' worth of available hours! May I ask you please to consider that your teachers this week will be helping you with your revision by going over your work, answering questions, giving you sample questions, reminding you of the format of the questions in their particular subject and generally being extremely helpful to you. You will have a whole day free tomorrow which is a government holiday for the Bengali New Year and a whole day free for home study on Wednesday and, in the opinion of most of us here, that is quite enough. We expect to see all of you on Tuesday.

Just reading and memorising is not good revision. You need to practice questions and answers. You need to look at old question papers. You need to look at your exercise books and learn from the mistakes that you have made. You need to look at the notes you have taken and remember that lesson and, if you still have the question paper, try to write out the answers again or cover up the answers and test yourself. You have probably forgotten that exercise anyway.

Please be sensible about your bodies at examination time. You do not sit in one chair and your body in another! You are together and, if your body is tired and hungry and sluggish, you will not do well in your examinations. Please get into a good routine this week. Go to bed in enough time to give yourselves 8 or 9 hours' good sleep before getting up early. Do not revise late at night and so have only a short sleep. If you have not revised before 8 o'clock on the evening before an exam, it is too late. Stop work about 8 o-clock and do something relaxing before you go to bed – play with the dog or the baby brother or sister or watch a little television or read a nice book or play chess or practice your guitar. (Incidentally - no one turned up for guitar lessons on Thursday – why not?).

Then there is breakfast. You cannot do a good morning's work, least of all in examination time, on little or no food. You need something with a bit of fat in it, to slow down your rate of digestion so that the food lasts longer in your stomach. You need some protein to be brain-food but, if you are feeling a little nervous, you do not want anything too difficult to digest. An egg is ideal. Tell your parents from me, "Mrs Robinson says it would be very good if I had an egg for breakfast." Not hard-boiled as that takes most of the nourishment out of it. Try and get a little exercise before you enter the school gates to get your blood circulating to your brain. Walk a little or skip or run round the garden – or roof.

When you are faced with your examination paper, you will probably look at the first questions and panic. "I cannot do this." Calm down. Do not start writing immediately. Read the question paper carefully. If it says, "Do three of the following questions," do not do all 5 questions or the examiner will put his or her pen through the last 2 which may be your best ones. Make sure you understand what you have to do. Think before you write and then write carefully. Take your time. If some idiot decides to race through the paper and then march out of the room long before

anyone else, do not let that person make you feel inferior. What he or she does is their business. You take as long as you need. Most people who leave examination rooms before the end of the time are very foolish. Most of them have not re-read their paper and checked it for mistakes. If you mis-timed your paper and finish early and if you see that your paper looks very messy and you have half an hour or more to spare, think of re-writing some of the questions – and crossing out the old ones. That could give you several more marks. God bless you.

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THE MILLENIUM RESOLUTION – LET THERE BE - 6

Assembly 62 – Tuesday April 15th 2003

This is the last Assembly of this term. Our next Assembly will be on the first day of the Summer Term on Sunday May 4th. Next week, I shall be going away for a week to Nepal, while you are doing your exams and having your holidays. I have only had 3 days' off since November 1st and I hate to admit it but I am not as young as I was so I need a holiday. I wish you all the best in your examinations and hope you have a nice few days' holiday before the new term begins. We are giving ourselves very short holidays this year, as you know, because we are changing from a January to December school year to an August to July one so our timings are very odd and it is hard for you and also hard for your teachers. We have to begin the new School Year in September this year. But one of the lovely things about the new sort of school year will be the way it will take the pressure off the winter months when the weather is at its best.

Let us remind ourselves of the Millenium Resolution – Let there be ------- and the last phrase is 'Let there be, from now on, a