



**GOOD MORNING  
SHER/SHERNIYO !**

**100 DAYS LEFT !**

**NEXT TIME KOI TUMHE YEH DAYS LEFT DIKHAYEGA  
TO YAAD RAKHNA WHO STARTED IT 1<sup>ST</sup> !**

**KAL SE YEH NUMBER 2 DIGITS MEIN DIKHEGA  
SO MAKE TODAY COUNT**

**WORK VERY HARD AND BE SUPER PERSISTENT**

**11:30AM - ACE**

**2:00PM - AMBITION**

**6:00PM - YOUTUBE**

## **PAPA AND HIS PLANT**

Every evening, when the day was ending, Mahendra slowly climbed the stairs to the terrace of their small rented house. His legs hurt after long hours of hard labor, and his shirt was always wet with sweat. He worked at construction sites, carrying cement bags, lifting iron rods, and doing tasks that younger men often avoided. Still, he climbed those stairs daily because the terrace was the only quiet place where he could breathe freely. In one corner of that terrace stood a broken clay pot. Inside it grew

an aloe vera plant. The pot was cracked, the soil was dry, and no one cared much for it. Yet the plant stayed green. It survived hot summers, heavy rains, and cold winter winds. Mahendra often looked at it silently, as if the plant knew something about pain and survival that words could never explain. His daughter Sheetal noticed this many times, but she never understood why her father respected that simple plant so deeply until the season of her own struggle began.

Sheetal was twenty-six and tired of failing. For three years she had prepared for competitive exams, and for three years results had wounded her confidence again and again. Sometimes she missed the cutoff by one mark. Sometimes she cleared prelims but failed mains. Sometimes mock tests made her feel brilliant one day and

useless the next. Relatives had many opinions and very little kindness. They asked why she was still studying, why she was delaying marriage, why she did not accept an ordinary job. Their words followed her like dust. One evening, after another poor mock test, she went to the terrace and sat beside the aloe vera plant. Her eyes were swollen with frustration. A few minutes later Mahendra came upstairs carrying two cups of tea. He handed one to her and asked softly, "Bad day again?" Sheetal nodded. "Baba, maybe I am not capable. I work hard, but nothing changes." Mahendra sat beside her and pointed toward the plant. "Do you know why I never throw this away?" She shook her head. "Because this plant teaches more than many books."

He touched one thick leaf gently. "Years ago I found it near a construction site. It

was thrown away. Roots were out. Leaves were damaged. I brought it home and planted it in this broken pot because I could not afford a new one. Your mother laughed and said it would survive like us.” At the mention of her late mother, Sheetal became silent. Mahendra continued, “This plant never got perfect weather, perfect soil, or perfect care. Still it lives. It stores strength when conditions are good and uses it when times are hard. That is determination.” Sheetal looked at the plant differently for the first time. The next morning she made a fresh plan—not an emotional promise, but a real system. Daily vocabulary, reading practice, mock analysis, arithmetic drills, reasoning sets, grammar revision. She stopped waiting for Monday, the first of the month, or the perfect mood. She began immediately.

Days became weeks. Summer heat made the room unbearable, but she studied. Electricity cuts came, but she used an emergency light. Noise from weddings and neighbors disturbed her, but she kept solving questions. Whenever scores dropped, she analyzed mistakes instead of crying for hours. Whenever relatives mocked her, she answered politely and returned to her desk. Mahendra watched quietly. Sometimes he brought tea. Sometimes fruit. Sometimes only silence. He had started listening to English vocabulary audios during lunch break so he could understand the words she studied. One day he bought her an old secondhand dictionary from a roadside seller. Some pages were torn, but Sheetal held it like treasure.

The aloe vera plant also changed. New shoots came out of the dry soil. Small green leaves pushed upward beside the

old plant. Mahendra smiled when he saw them. "Growth begins before people notice it," he said. Sheetal wrote that line in her notebook.

Months later she cleared prelims. They celebrated with simple sweets. Then came mains preparation, harsher and more exhausting. She doubted herself often. Once she shouted at Mahendra in stress when he asked if she wanted tea. He quietly made it anyway. Later she apologized with tears. He smiled and said, "Stress speaks foolishly. Do not let it become your habit." She laughed despite herself.

On mains day she entered the center with fear and discipline together. The paper was difficult, but she remained calm. Then began the long wait for results. During that time Mahendra developed a cough and weakness but hid it so she would not lose focus. One

night she found him coughing on the terrace beside the aloe vera plant. She was hurt that he had said nothing. He replied softly, "I wanted your attention on the exam, not on me."

The final result came on a cloudy afternoon. The website crashed many times. Her hands shook while entering details. Mahendra stood behind her silently. Then the screen loaded.

Selected.

For a moment neither spoke. Then Sheetal cried loudly and laughed through tears. Mahendra sat on the floor and covered his face. "I wanted your mother to see this," he whispered.

Sheetal held his shoulders. "She can."

That evening they went to the terrace with tea. The aloe vera plant stood strong in the broken pot, surrounded by many new shoots. Mahendra looked at it and said, "Even a cracked pot can grow

life.” Later Sheetal bought a larger pot and moved the plant carefully without harming its roots.

Years later, when students asked her the secret of success, she would smile and say, “Do not wait for perfect conditions. Store strength in good days. Keep working in bad days. Grow wherever life has planted you.”

Because determination is often quiet. Sometimes it looks like a tired father climbing stairs after labor. Sometimes it looks like a daughter opening books after repeated failure. And sometimes it looks like an aloe vera plant growing in broken clay, teaching strength without saying a word.

### **Word List**

1. Determination – firm resolve
2. Frustration – deep disappointment
3. Capable – able, competent

4. Survival – continued living
5. Conditions – circumstances
6. Discipline – controlled habit
7. Analyze – examine carefully
8. Mocked – insulted, ridiculed
9. Treasure – something valuable
10. Growth – development
11. Exhausting – very tiring
12. Focus – concentration
13. Whispered – spoke softly
14. Selected – chosen
15. Resolve – strong decision

