

Can Anyone Hear Me?

There was an old shrine in a village. One day a storm came and washed the shrine away. The next day people looked for the shrine, but they only found a big hole. People looked into the hole. It was deep and dark.

Someone called into it, "Hello? Can anyone hear me?"

No echo came back.

A boy threw a stone into the hole. He listened, but there was no sound. People heard about the hole on TV. They came from far away to see it. One day, a rich man said to the people of the village, "I'll build a new shrine for the village. But you must give me the hole." The people of the village agreed. The rich man advertised the hole as a new dump.

People gave money to the rich man and dumped things into the hole. They dumped garbage, test papers, old love letters and many other things. Trash was sent from all over the world. People dumped every kind of garbage in the hole, including nuclear waste. A few years went by, but the hole did not fill up. People stopped worrying about garbage, and the sea and sky became clean and beautiful.

The rich man became a hero, and the village became a wealthy city. But one day, as a young man was working on the roof of a new building, he heard a voice from the sky.

"Hello? Can anyone hear me?" it said.

He looked up, but he only saw the blue sky. He started working again. Then, something fell down from the sky and hit the roof near him, but he didn't notice.

It was... a stone!

(284 Words)