

GARDEN PARTY

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Intent of the Allegory.

The primary job and responsibility of Parents and teachers is to educate their children.

The Allegory

Mr. Gardener was a man in love with flowers. To grow flowers – all sorts of flowers – was his joy in life. To talk to his flowers, to look at them, to enjoy their fragrance was all his delight.

One day, Mr. Gardener invited his close friends to his garden for a party. He wanted to regale them with the beauty of his exotic and exquisite flowers. He thought to himself: “What present shall I give my guests that they may treasure it? Will a bouquet of my most beautiful flowers do? NO! NO! I feel bad to cut so many young blooming flowers. Besides, a bouquet of flowers will soon wither and my guests will forget my garden.”

At last, he exclaimed with joy: “I know what present to give my dear friends. I’ll gather seeds of my most exquisite flowers and offer a small bag of them to each of my guests. In due time, they will be privileged to enjoy a garden as beautiful as mine. Surely, the world will be a more beautiful place to be with so many scented flowers!”

At the close of the party, Mr. Gardener gave each guest a little bag of seeds and said: “My friends, I love flowers. You can see the splendor of my garden. Take these seeds which I, carefully, have chosen from among my most exquisite flowers. Cultivate them with love and care – as I do – and you too, will be the proud owners of a magnificent garden.”

The guests took the little precious bags, thanked their host and went home. As he left the garden, one of the guests murmured: “What for do I want these seeds? Why should I waste my precious time cultivating flowers? There are more important things in life than flowers.” And straight off, he threw the bag away.

Another guest muttered to himself: “These seeds are really good. Yes, I’ll cultivate them, not now, but later on, when I’ll have some leisure”! When he reached home, he kept the little bag in one of the drawers of his desk never to open it again.

A third guest said to himself: “Yes, I love flowers, but I have no time to cultivate them myself. I’ll get someone else to do it for me”. He called his servant and ordered him to cultivate the seeds for him. Needless to say, the seeds never bloomed to the full. The servant cultivated them just for a wage, not for love!

Still another guest said: “Oh! Yes, I love flowers! I will cultivate them in my little garden, of course, but I am a busy man. I’ll give to my garden the spared moments of my day.” The flowers grew, but turned colorless.

Finally, full of enthusiasm another guest exclaimed: “I love flowers! I’ll cultivate these seeds with love and care”. He spent on them the time, the energies and the money they deserved. And of course, it goes without saying; his garden was as beautiful, as colorful and as scented as the one of Mr. Gardener.

Note

Taking it for granted that in the allegory, God is the gardener, the world his garden, men and women his flowers, our children the seeds, and parents and teachers the guests of the story, the attitudes the different guests displayed towards their seeds will exemplify the attitudes different Parents and Teachers may display towards the education of their children.

There are five attitudes:

- 1st attitude: **Unconcern.** There are more important things in life than to spend time on our children’s education.
- 2nd attitude: **In theory, we have concern** for our children, but in **practice, we do not show concern.** Somehow, we neglect them.
- 3rd attitude: **Concern by proxy.** We care for our children, but we do it through others. We entrust their education to servants, tutors and the like.
- 4th attitude: **Halfhearted concern.** Not sufficient care. We do care for them. But we do not give them the time and attention they need and deserve.
- 5th attitude: **Full concern:** Children are our first priority. We devote all the time and all means at our disposal for the education and upbringing our children.

Corolary

Such delicate seeds, like our children, can not blossom to maturity without being given lots of time, best attention and energies

For responsible parents and teachers the education and upbringing of their children. . Should be their first priority

In today’s busy world, much of the responsibilities of our children’s education is place on Grandparents, Maids, Ayahs, School Authorities, Tutors, Servants, and the like...It could be said: . “Education by proxy Should it be so?

