

JUST A DWARF

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Human and Moral Maturity Demands ‘Control’ over our Feelings, Passions and Basic Human Drives.

Intent of this Story

- ✓ *To alert all to possible moral and spiritual dangers..*
- ✓ *To encourage people to share their problems with counselors and close friends.*
- ✓ *To tackle our bad habits, inclinations and addictions at the very start.*
- ✓ *To realize that the so called personal –problems are common problems to be faced by one and all. .*

THE STORY

King: Rajesh, my dear Preceptor, I trust you completely! I brought my little son, Prince Ashok to you. Look after him. I want you to make out of him, a fine king. Teach him to be upright, kind, courageous and loyal!

Rajesh: Yes, you’re Majesty, I will!

Narrator: Rajesh being a skilful and experienced master took good care of Prince Ashok. He taught him to love God and man, to care for his country and to fight against its enemies. One day, Rajesh said to Ashok:

Rajesh: Ashok, it’s time for you to learn how to fight! Some day, somewhere, you will have to defend your motherland and keep its enemies away. Look, I give you this little sword. From now on, keep it always with you. This sword will become your best companion and friend.

Narrator: From that day on, little Ashok spent hours on end practicing with his sword. Though, small in age and stature, he became an expert swordsman. One day, his master warned him:

Rajesh: When you go to the forest, make sure that you take your sword. I warn you. Any day, when you will walking along, a dwarf will show from somewhere. He will brandish a little sword like yours. He will try to kill you. Don’t be afraid! By now, you are an expert in wielding your sword. Run to him, fight him **and kill him. Don’t spare him.**

Narrator True enough, as Ashok was strolling in the forest, one day, the dwarf appeared. He ran to Ashok and yelled:

Dwarf: I'll kill you! I hate you! Come on, coward. I'll finish you up.

Narrator: Quickly, Ashok ran to him and fought him. There was a clinking of swords, showers of abuses, shouts and yells. Soon, it was over. Ashok proved his skill and courage. The Dwarf lay on the ground flat on his back, disarmed and vanquished. Ashok put his foot on his chest ready to kill him. But when he was about to thrust his sword into the Dwarf's heart, Ashok told to himself:

Ashok: Why should I kill him? He is so small! He cannot harm me. I am strong!

Narrator: Then, he told the Dwarf:

Ashok: "Get up; go away as fast as can from my sight, before I tear you to pieces."

Narrator: As Ashok returned home, Rajesh asked:

Rajesh: "Ashok, did you meet the Dwarf in the forest? Did you fight him?"

Ashok: "Yes, I did!"

Rajesh: "Did you defeat him?"

Ashok: "Yes, easily I did it"

Rajesh: "Did you kill him?"

Ashok: "No! Why should I kill him? It was so small!"

Rajesh: "I assure you; a day will come when you will be sorry for not having killed him".

Ashok: "Why should I? What harm can he do to me?"

Rajesh: "Just wait and see".

Narrator: Ashok shrugged his shoulders in disbelief. Many, many weeks and months rolled by. Then, one day, when Ashok went to the forest, a monstrous giant appeared from nowhere. The Giant rushed towards Ashok brandishing an enormous sword. He was screaming and spouting abuses. Ashok looked at him in terror. In the face of the giant he could easily read the features of the former little dwarf! The Giant sneered at him:

Giant: Today, I'll kill you! Be sure. I'll finish you! I'll take my revenge. You defeated me once, now is my turn!"

Narrator: With that, the Giant charged at him savagely. Ashok had no other go but fight. And he fought, fought and fought. There was a loud clinking of swords, shouts, yells and heavy breathing. Ashok fought like a little lion. He dodged and dodged the mighty blows of the giant. The chase and skirmishes went on and on. At last the mighty monster panting and gasping, sat down for a little rest.

Only then, could Ashok get the better of him. Like lightning, Ashok lunged forward with his sword and pierced the giant's heart. Then, Ashok full of bruises and cuts, limp with exhaustion, dragged himself home. He was bleeding all over, covered with dust and bathed in sweat. On the way he kept muttering to himself.

Ashok: “Today, I nearly died. I never thought I would be able to make it home”. O, that I would have killed the Giant when he was still a Dwarf!”

Narrator: When Ashok, more dead than alive, reached home, , Rajesh asked:

Rajesh: “Ashok, what did happen today in the forest?”

Narrator: In shame, and limp with exhaustion, Ashok replied:

Ashok: “Today, it was a giant I had to fight, not a dwarf! I nearly died!”

Narrator: Rajesh remarked:

Rajesh: “Kill your Dwarfs, my dear; else later on you will have to fight with Giants!”

REFLECTIONS ON THE STORY OF THE DWARF

- All of us like Ashok, sooner or later, will face some dwarfs in life: For instance:
 - Dangerous passions: Anger, lust, sloth, greed, pride, gluttony, and envy.
 - Negative feelings: Sadness, discouragement, revengefulness, spite, etc.
 - Budding bad habits: Drinking to excess, smoke, gambling, drug addiction, cheating, misuse of sex, etc.
 - Evil inclinations: Grumbling, moodiness, selfishness, gossiping etc.
 - Temptations: Bad companions, bad readings, bad movies, over eating, excessive T.V. Watching, pornography, etc.
- When our dwarfs are small, - I mean, at the beginning when they start worrying us, - they are manageable.. We can easily control them, even kill them.
- If we allow them grow within us, they will become giants. They will catch hold of us and ruin us!
- That's what happened to drug addicts, murderers, robbers, lazy bums, drunkards, sex maniacs, etc. They were not born like that! By allowing their Dwarfs to grow in their hearts, unfortunately, they became like that.
- We have to keep a continuous watch to discover our budding dwarfs within us, and destroy them no sooner they appear. .
- Do not say, “Oh, but they are so small! Why to bother about trifles?”

