

# **THE GREAT SCULPTOR.**

*From: Stories, Parables and Fables of life of P. Ribes, s.j.  
Published by Gujarat Sahitya Prakash.*

## **Intent of the Poem**

- ✓ *Suffering makes us perfect.*
- ✓ *God allows us to suffer that we may become images of His Son Jesus.*
- ✓ *We have to allow God, The Great Sculptor, to chisel us in the way he thinks best, even if it causes pain..*
- ✓ *Without suffering there is no glory. No Easter without Good Friday.*

## **The Poem**

A block of the hardest marble stood  
Before the Sculptor, where he would  
He smote with hand well skilled,  
And thus, with blow fulfilled  
The image of his mind.

At first with chisel course and stroke,  
Unspared, the corners off he broke,  
And soon the form appeared;  
But then with finer tools he wrought,  
And finer yet, until he brought,  
The perfect image forth.

So God divinely works with love,  
He in eternal ages chose.  
To show his works of grace,  
And thus with blow on blow to trace,  
The image of His Son.

And when we have the glory gained,  
And Christ's full image have attained,  
We'll praise his wondrous skill,  
And bless the hand that dealt each blow,  
Upon the marble here below,  
In working his will.

(A.J.H. Brown).

## **Questions for Reflection and Discussion.**

1. In the poem, who does the sculptor stand for?
2. And the marble block, for what does it stand?
3. What do the knocks and hits of the chisel signify?
4. Is it necessary for the marble to suffer in order to become a perfect image? Why?
5. If the marble could feel and speak like a human person, would he rejoice or regret at the end about the sufferings undergone to become a perfect statue? Then, why not?
6. What does suffering do to us? What is the value of suffering in human life?
7. Does God make us suffer, or rather permits us to suffer? How and Why?
8. What sort of image does God, the great Sculptor, intend carving in us?
9. Can God carve the image of His Son in us if we offered resistance to his artistic and loving work?
10. Did Jesus, Himself, have to undergo suffering? Why? Give reasons.
11. How did Jesus suffer? Give examples.
12. What have we to learn from his patience and endurance?

## **N. TESTAMENT TEXTS FOR REFLECTION AND PRAYER.**

Mt 16/21-23	If you want to save your life, you will lose it...
Jn 12/22-25	Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies it will remain a single grain, if it dies it will bear plentiful fruit...
Jn 15/1-2	God prunes every branch that does not bear fruit. ...
Jn 16/19-22	Sadness will turn into gladness for a mother in child bearing...
Lk 24/13-27	"Emmaus" Was it not necessary that Christ should suffer?
Mk 9/30-31	Christ announces his impending sufferings....
Mt 6/21-23	Peter remonstrates against Jesus' sufferings....
Mt 5/10-12	Be glad! When persecutions and sufferings come your way...
Phi 2/1-11	Christ was exalted because he suffered....
2 Co 11/30-& 12/9	Paul glories in his sufferings.
Ro 8/16-18	All the sufferings of this life are nothing in comparison to future glory.