

THE LITTLE KANGAROO

Adaptation from the Spanish "Fabulas del Siglo XX" by P., Ribes, sj.

Intent of the story

- ✓ *There are three possible attitudes in our dealings with others: Assertiveness, Submissiveness and Aggressiveness*
- ✓ *To be assertive we have to make our rights respected and respect others rights as well.*
- ✓ *The Submissive person allows his rights to be disrespected*
- ✓ *The aggressive person disrespects the right of others.*
- ✓ *Submissive and aggressive responses are psychologically wrong and damaging*
- ✓ *Emotionally mature people should give only assertive responses.*

The Fable

Narrator: :

When for the first time, little Kangaroo, Peeped out of his mommy's pouch full of admiration, exclaimed:

L. Kangaroo.

"Oh! How beautiful is this world! Mum, when will you allow me to go out and enjoy these wonders?"

Narrator:

With great concern and affection, licking him all over, Mother Kangaroo replied:

Mother:

"There is no need for you, darling, to leave my tummy. I'll tell you all about the world without your having to go out of my belly. I do not want you to join bad companies outside there. I will not allow you to be exposed to the dangers of that wicked world. Many little Kangaroos like you got spoiled in the outside world. I am a very loving and responsible mother

Narrator:

Little Kangaroo sighed, closed his eyes, hid himself inside his mommy's tummy and very, very submissively said;

L. Kangaroo:

"Yes, yes Mum! I'll never step out into the outside world,"

Narrator:

As the days passed by, little Kangaroo kept growing. He was getting bigger and bigger. Mummy's tummy was becoming smaller and smaller. Finally, it was tearing at the seams. One day, Mother Kangaroo ordered her son:

Mother:

"I forbid you to grow any more! By growing like this you cause me pain. You make me feel very embarrassed and uncomfortable!"

Narrator:

And, of course, being so good and obedient, just to please his mum, Little Kangaroo said:

L. Kangaroo:

"Yes, yes! Mum, I'll do as you please"

Narrator:

And henceforth he stopped growing. He did not want to pain his mother. Yet, inside Mother Kangaroo's pouch, Little Kangaroo kept putting his mum lots of questions:

L. Kangaroo:

"Mum, why do you not allow me to go out of your pouch? Mum, what are the dangers I would face, were I to go on my own out there? Mum, where do small Kangaroos come from?"

Narrator:

One day, Mother Kangaroo, angry and annoyed, shouted:

Mother:

"Stop questioning me! Good children do not put questions! Be a good boy and do just as I am telling you! Do not think! Do not argue!"

Narrator:

Being very obedient and submissive, little Kangaroo said

L. Kangaroo:

"Yes, yes, Mum!" I'll not think; I'll no put any more questions.

Narrator:

Henceforth, Little Kangaroo stopped thinking and asking questions. His mum was very pleased. Yes, her son was so such a nice obedient child! Yet, Little Kangaroo's face turned blank and stupid. Many days later, peeping out of his mother's pouch, Little Kangaroo discovered a little Kangaroo girl. She was the most attractive little female Kangaroo ever seen! Little Kangaroo exclaimed:

L. Kangaroo:

"Oh! Mum! How beautiful she looks! How charming! I want to marry her!"

Narrator:

With one or two tears of indignation in her eyes, Mother Kangaroo bewailed:

Mother: "What's this I hear? Do you want to leave me, just to marry this ordinary stray Kangaroo g

irl? Is this the way you repay me for all the sacrifices I made for you? How ungrateful you are! You hurt me very badly!"

Narrator:

Then with a voice, both pleading and threatening she said:

Mother:

"I'll never allow you to marry her or any other Kangaroo girl. Got that? You got to repay me all I did for you. You have to be a good boy and look after me till I die."

Narrator:

Being very obedient and a good boy, Little Kangaroo said:

L. Kangaroo:

"Yes, yes, Mum! I'll never marry any one"

Narrator:

From now on, little Kangaroo did not talk to any Kangaroo girl, he never loved anyone, nor did he marry. He stuck to his mother's pouch till she died!"

When Mother Kangaroo died, they removed Little Kangaroo from his mother's tummy. He looked such strange creature! His body was as small and as weak as the one of a new born baby Kangaroo yet, his face was as old and wrinkled as the one of the oldest Kangaroos. As they put him on the ground in the outside world, he shook all over and soon died!"

IDEAS AAND THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION.

Aggressiveness, Submissiveness and Assertiveness.

- **The question of Aggressiveness, Submissiveness and Assertiveness is essentially connected with the question of human rights..**
- By birth, by the fact that we are Human Persons, every one of us has inborn personal rights.
- We call them Basic Human Rights”, for instance: the right to life, to freedom, to privacy, to education, to marry, etc...
- All of us have to see to it that our human rights are respected.
- Likewise, we have the strict obligation to respect without any distinctions the human rights of others.
- There are no exceptions in the keeping of this mutual obligation. Superiors and inferiors, Parents and children, educated and un-educated, rich and poor, nationals or foreigners, etc. have to respect each others’ rights.
- No one can abdicate his/her fundamental rights to others even to their superiors. . Giving one’s human rights away to others would be a sort of personal suicide. We would cease to be worthy and respectable human persons. In a way our personhood would be killed.
Keeping these principles in mind it will be easy to understand what:

Aggressiveness, **Submissiveness and** **Assertiveness are**

An aggressive person

is the one who does not respect the rights of others. He/she restricts, takes away or violates other’s rights.

For instance **Mother Kangaroo was an aggressive person.** She violated nearly all the personal rights of the Little Kangaroo; such as, the right to be free , right to think, right to question, right to grow, right to marry, etc.

A submissive person

is the one who when his/her rights are violated or taken away submits, keeps quiet and conforms. He/she does not demand or fight - in an acceptable and a non aggressive way - for his/her rights to be respected.

Little Kangaroo was a submissive person. He allowed her mother to take away all his rights.

An assertive person

is the one who, first of all, respects and honors everybody’s rights, and at the same time demands from others to respect his/her rights. He/she is ready to fight – in a polite and non aggressive manner to have his/her rights respected..

Corollary

These three possible stances in each person - “The Aggressive, the Submissive and the Assertive” ones will shape and rule all his personal relationships.

Namely, **a submissive person**, in all likelihood, **will be submissive** at home, in college, in the officering, in the seminary, in the parish, etc., likewise **an aggressive and an assertive person** will relate and interact consistently all over in an aggressive or an assertive way. .