

THE PORTRAIT

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Intent of the Story:

- ✓ *The importance of accepting our real self*
- ✓ *If we reject our real-self we shall never be happy and contented*
- ✓ *We come to know our real self through the mediation of others*

THE STORY

Mr. More, a celebrity, asked famous painter to draw his portray. Before he would work on the canvas, the painter prepared a sketch of Mr. Moore's portrait for his approval.

It was a perfect sketch. It looked real and true. When he showed it to his customer for approval Mr. More did not like it. He found it unattractive, nearly repelling. He told the artist: "What? This is what you drew of me? I don't like it at all! I don't want this sketch. Look! You drew my legs too short. Please, draw them longer."

When the painter showed him a second sketch, he remonstrated again: "Can't you see that my arms are too long? Make them shorter!" The artist prepared another sketch, this time with longer legs and shorter arms.

When Mr. More saw a third sketch, he complained again: "Good gracious me! What sort of ears you drew! They are too small! Make them bigger."

Time and again, Mr. More went on objecting: "I do not like this pose of mine! Change it!. And, what about my complexion? Make it fairer! And now my eyes! And now my mouth! And. now my tummy!"

At last, the final sketch met with the approval of the customer. Then, Mr. More said: "Good! Now, I like my portrait.. I look so smart!"

After the portrait was finished Mr. More left the Painter's studio very happy and glad. With his beautiful painting he went home. Then, proudly, he showed his portrait to all his friends and relations. When they saw it, all burst out laughing!

They said: "What's this? Whose portrait is this? It's not a portrait but a carton, a caricature! Please, tell us who is the artist that painted this nonsense. It's not true. It does not show your real self. We like you much more as you are than what this painter made you to look like"

In anger and shame, Mr. More took the portrait and tore it to pieces. Then, he ran to the studio and told the painter: "Please draw my portrait again according to the first sketch you made of me. That's the one, I love most now"

REFLECT ON THESE SENTENCES

- ✓ To win people's approval and affection show yourself as you are.
- ✓ When dealing with others shed off all masks and uniforms.
- ✓ In human relationships, honesty is the best policy
- ✓ Don't try to be different. Be yourself. By being yourself, you will always be different
- ✓ If others like you, well for you, if they don't worse for them.
- ✓ People act like mirrors. We, see ourselves, for better or for worse, as they see us.
- ✓ By rejecting his first sketches, Mr. More, actually, rejected himself.
- ✓ We think and feel about ourselves not according to what we really are, but according to what we would like to be.