

RECEPTION THAT NEVER WAS

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Freedom of Conscience

Intent of this Story.

- ✓ *God want us to be free.*
- ✓ *Without freedom there are no human actions.*
- ✓ *Only human actions can be meritorious or punishable*
- ✓ *No freedom, no merit*
- ✓ *We have to act responsibly free.*
- ✓ *We have to teach others “responsible freedom”*

THE STORY

The skies grew dark, mid day turned night, the gale blew, the clouds broke loose and a deluge flooded the earth. The waters of the river swelled, the city became a lake, and people in a panic flew.

Then one of the citizens fell into the swirling waters he was getting drowned. Pitifully, he cried for help. People watched helplessly; no one could summon the courage to save him.

Then, all of a sudden, a courageous young man jumped into the turbulent waters. There was a hush among the bystanders.

The savior came close to the drowning man. Holding each other they strove to keep afloat. To their good luck, the current brought down a piece of wood. Both of them clung to it for dear life. People held their breath. Then, on the nick of time, the fire brigade reached the spot. With difficulty they managed to bring both men from sure death to life. As our men reached the bank, there was a sigh of relief and thunderous clap.

Some weeks later, the Mayor of the town arranged for a Civic Reception to honor the man who risked his life to save one of his fellow citizens. All the Corporators and other dignitaries were present at the reception. The Mayor gave a vibrant speech praising the courageous hero who displayed such great valor and love for his neighbor.

He then called him to the mike. Before garlanding him, the Mayor interviewed him before the large audience. “My dear friend”, he asked, “could you tell us what gave you the courage to jump into a sure death to save an unknown citizen?” The savior hesitated for a while and fumbling for words replied: “Sir, would you mind if honestly I tell the whole truth?” “Of course,” the Mayor said, “We shall be pleased to hear it”.

Then, the savior with a grimace in his face and in a sarcastic voice said:
“Well, then, actually speaking, I did not jump into the water. Some
bastard, in the crowd, pushed me from behind into the river.
“

REFLECTIONS

Pushing and Being Pushed!

When I was baptized, was I not pushed from the back into the water?
Why do I go for mass, confession, communions, etc? Am I pushed or I
freely jump.. //

Why am I Christian even today?
Why am I doing what I do?
Why I refrain myself from doing this or that? Why? Why?

It is time for us to jump into the water on our own!
It's time for us to start doing things on our own!
To answer for ourselves, to be responsible, to take personal
and free decisions!

Are we not also pushing others from their backs? Our children? One
another? Our pupils?
Do we teach and encourage others to be responsibly free and take their
personal decisions?

It is time that we enable others to jump into the waters of life
on their own, to make their own personal decisions!
We have to teach them and encourage them
to be responsibly free.