

## HONESTY IN RELATIONSHIPS

P.Ribes, s.j.

### Note:

- ✓ *For satisfying and true relationships honesty is essential.*
- ✓ *Dishonesty and phoniness kill any human relationships, between friends, marriage partners, teachers and pupils, etc,*

### The Shepherds And The Wall

Once upon a time there was a large, green open countryside. Cutting across that countryside, you could see a huge, high wall. It was the boundary wall between two neighboring countries. No one ever was allowed to jump over that wall, not even to peep over it. Shepherds and shepherdesses were only allowed to graze their flocks on their own side of the wall.

On one side of the wall you could see Patrick – an ugly, tiny and deformed shepherd boy. He had a repelling appearance. Yet, he was a real master in the art of playing the flute. The tunes he struck from his ordinary flute were simply enrapturing, enthralling. While minding his little flock and sitting with his back against the wall with his flute in his mouth he was filling the air with the most enrapturing tunes and melodies.

On the other side of the wall you could see a young shepherdess. She was ugly, short, dark, squint eyed, just a sight to see!. Yet, she could pride herself of the sweetest and most melodious voice ever. One day, Patrick was more inspired than ever; the music emanating from his flute was celestial!

The little shepherd girl sitting at the other side of the wall, was simply enchanted by that music. In admiration, with the sweetest voice ever heard she exclaimed: "Oh! What music! It's wonderful! I could die of joy!" When the shepherd boy heard that sweet, silvery voice his heart missed a beat and said: "Yes? Do you like it? I am so glad! I could play for you till the end of my life!"

With a shy and quivering voice the girl responded: "Oh! I am so glad! But now, tell; tell me, what's your name? Tell me who are you, and how do you look? I am sure you must be terrific!"

Patrick replied: "Tell me also, what your name is? Who are you? How do you look like? A voice as sweet as yours cannot come but from a most beautiful and attractive girl! Right?"

She said: "My name is Rose. I am very beautiful. I am tall and slim. I have a lovely figure. I am very womanly. I am fair. People say that I look like a little Princess. Now, tell me about yourself. I want to know about you.

The shepherd boy replied: "Well, my name is Patrick. I am tall and muscular. I am very manly and attractive. I am strong, a good athlete. I am very handsome. Some people say that I was born to be a King!" Rose exclaimed: "O Pat, how I love you!". Patrick reciprocated: "O Rose, How much I love you!

From that day on Rose and Patrick spent endless hours speaking to each other over the wall. Patrick used to play delicious tunes while Rose sang. It was a pleasure to hear them. Their talents matched so well that they seemed to have been made for each other.

As the days passed by, they grew deeper and deeper in love with each other. In her dreams, Rose used to imagine how handsome, attractive, manly, muscular and lovely Pat was. Patrick too, night and day dreamt of how womanly, fair, beautiful and attractive Rose must be!.

How eagerly they ran daily to the wall to hear each other's voice and speak without end of sweet nothings. How much they loved each other! Yet when they were away from each other, they were feeling strangely worried, fearful, and unsatisfied. All those sweet nothings, all those declarations of love in the long run made their hearts anxious.

After many days there was an earthquake. The big wall shook, cracked and finally collapsed. That day, Rose and Patrick, with heavy and anxious hearts took their little flocks to graze. As they approached the broken wall they were full of misgivings and fears. Each one was questioning himself, herself: "Will he, will she, love me still, being what I am? "

As they reached the broken wall, fearfully and with anxious looks they searched for one another. Unknowingly, they chanced to stand in front of each other, but they couldn't recognize one another.

After a long search, they realized that their beloved wasn't there! In utter frustration and disappointment each one muttered to himself self..."**Oh, too bad! She! He! Is not there! She, he is not come today! May be he, she will come tomorrow! To say the same self thing tomorrow!**

## **Points Helpful for the Reflection**

### **Why Do We Build False Images of Ourselves**

- To impress others
- We have a poor "self-images". .
- Inferiority complexes.
- Craving to be liked.
- Dislike of self.
- Self-rejection.
- Lack of self confidence.
- Pains and hurts of past rejections.
- Ignorance of our positive points and good qualities.
- Wising to come up to others' expectations
- Societal pressures, .
- Lack of "self-assertion".
- Not having experienced unconditional love. "

### **Effects of "Dishonesty" in Communication**

- Anxieties.
- Fears
- Tensions.
- Loss of energies by building and keeping up false images.
- Disappointments and frustrations.
- Loneliness.
- Lack of intimacy and true friends.
- Artificiality – phoniness.
- Superficiality and shallowness in our relationships.'
- Inability to offer and accept unconditional love.
- Feeling forced to play roles and keep up appearances.
- Emptiness and meaningless in life.