

# **BE PRUDENT - DO NOT RUSH TO CONCLUSIONS**

*Adapted from a Dutch legend by P. Ribes, s.j.*

## **On being wise, prudent and cautious in judging and assessing situations**

### **The Spring Flower**

#### **Intent of the Story:**

- *Our perceptions differ.*
- *Be reflective, not rush.*
- *Do not jump into conclusions without proper reflection*
- *Arguments generate more heat than truth*

### **The Story**

It had been a long and cruel winter. At last, the weather turned warmer. The days were longer and the nights shorter. Two men were strolling; one, was young, the other, old. All of a sudden, the young man saw a "springy flower" popping out from the ground. Full of joy, he said: "Look! Look there! It's a spring flower! How wonderful! Winter is over!"

Hurriedly, the young man began removing his coat, his sweater and winter clothing. The old man remarked: "How rush you are? One "spring flower" does not make summer! You are as rush as this little flower!" Then in anger the old man shouted at the flower: "I'll teach you, 'silly flower, to be prudent and not spring before time. Winter is not yet over!" Then the old man kicked the new sprung flower and crushed it to the ground.

In silence, both men continued their walk. The young man muttered to himself: "I have to be prudent, not rush. Summer has not come yet so soon after all! One "spring flower" does not make summer."

The old man, pensively, said to himself: "Did I not make winter longer by kicking the "spring flower"? I have to be less sure of myself! After all, summer comes sooner than one thinks.

All of a sudden, both men bumped into several "spring flowers" popping up. The old man calmly said: "Winter is over!" The young man pensively added: "Yes, but summer is not yet come!"

### **PONTS FOR REFLECTION**

- Be prudent and don't rush. We must ponder all facts before we jump into conclusions.
- All of us - young and old - tend to be rush.
- We have to learn from past mistakes and sober down in life.
- Extreme positions and stances are dangerous. Both of them contain half truths and half falsehoods.

- We have to learn to examine the weak points of our opinions before we dismiss or criticize somebody else's
- Question what you are told and taught
- Do not try to impose your views on others.
- Respect and examine others perceptions.
- Anger in argumentation is irrational it, does not help to find the truth.
- To come to know the truth dialogue is better than argument.
- Before you speak once, think twice.
- Fools are sure of themselves, wise people not so.
- Learn from past mistakes.
- Mostly, the truth is not found in the extreme premises, but in the middle course