

# THE UNHAPPY STONE

*An adaptation of the story "The Little Stone"  
of Jennifer Utarid.*

## Where Happiness?

### *Intent of the Story:*

- ✓ *To realize that happiness is within us, not outside us*
- ✓ *Happiness is neither here or there. It's every where*
- ✓ *Happiness is in where we are and in what we are.*
- ✓ *The key to happiness is in the acceptance of what we are ad what we have.*

## THE STORY

Once upon a time, a little stone live in a beautiful garden in the company of beautiful flowers. Instead of being happy with his lot, he grumbled from morn to sunset. He used to say: "I am fed up of living in this garden with you flowers. Your company is so dull and uninteresting! I want to live on the road where all the fun and excitement are." When the flowers heard this talk they were very, very sad.

One day, a lad came to play in the garden. Seeing our stone, absent-mindedly, he began kicking it. Finally, the stone landed on the roadside. "Hurrah! I an off to see the world" the stone said, "Bye, bye, you silly flowers."

Soon he found himself near a pile of fierce looking black stones. With a smile in his face, he greeted them: "Hullo! Good morning! I'm so thrilled to be here. My name is..." One grumpy stone interrupted him: "Do be quiet! Do not talk nonsense. My head is paining with all these noises! I am not in a mood for your stupid talk." The little stone was highly offended. He turned to see whom he could make friends with. Suddenly he screamed: "Ouch... ooh... ooh... my poor back! Ouch. What was that horrid thing that walked over my back?" Tauntingly, the black stones remarked "Oh, that was just a cart, you will get used to them after a few hundreds go over you."

The little stone exclaimed: "What? A few hundreds? Ahh... ohooo... oohh! Oh dear, I am getting choked. What's this?" Laughing, all the stones replied: "That's smoke. Do not get upset, very soon you will become black like us," The little stone broke crying: "This is not what I expected on the roadside! This is terrible! It's unbearable!"

Our little stone was kept busy, the whole night long dodging vehicles and wiping the soot from his eyes. That night, he could not get a wink of sleep. In the morning, he was so tired, and the thought of another day made him nervous.

Just then, along came the same boy, and believe it or not, he kicked the little stone back into the garden where he had come from. His friends, the flowers, were overjoyed to see him again. The little stone said to them: "Oh, how happy I am to be back! Never again will I go to live on the main street. Forgive me for having treated you so shabbily in the past. I am very happy in the garden in your company."

## **POINTS FOR REFLECTION**

- God made us for happiness.
- God wants us to find happiness in the place he has put us.
- God gives each one of us our place through the circumstances of of each one's life.
- It is only in 'my' place that I ought to search for happiness.
- To search for happiness elsewhere spells disaster.
- Actually speaking "happiness" is within us, not without us.
- If we cannot find happiness within, we shall be unhappy anywhere we go..
- We can't run away from ourselves.
- The great obstacle to happiness is to entertain wrong expectations about it.
- The Little stone expected to be happy on the roadside, not outside the garden. .
- Acceptance of oneself and of the circumstances of one's life is the key to happiness.
- The ads and commercial propaganda we' are subjected to, spoil our happiness
- We are made to believe that in order to be happy, we have to have this or that; to be here or there; to be like this or like that!

## **PONDER ON THESE MAXIMS**

1. Beggars are not choosers
2. Disillusionment is the child of unrealistic expectations
3. Do not allow others or the external events of life rob you from your inner joy.
4. Don't place your happiness in things or in others but in your inner self..
5. Happiness is an insight job.
6. If you cannot have what you like, like what you have.
7. Love what your have, that's all you have.
8. Do nor give others the power to make you happy or unhappy.