

## **USELESS PICTURES**

**God's blessings, often enough come disguised as old, ragged and useless pictures**

**The Cross of Jesus as much as our crosses look ugly, yet they are of great value.**

**It is difficult for us to find the value of our pains and sufferings.**

Mrs. Kulkarni, a good but very simple and illiterate woman, met her old neighbor Mrs. D'Costa as she was about to leave the compound of their Colony. Mrs. D'Costa looked haggard and down cast. Kulkarni said to D'Costa: "God morning, Mrs. D'Costa, how comes that you look so sad and weary today?"

With a sigh, Mrs. D'Costa replied: "How can I be happy when I have been deserted by Johnny, my only son whom I loved more than my own life? He left some months back after he secured a very good job abroad. Before leaving, in tears and sobs swore to me: "Do not worry' mum. I'll never forget you. I love you with all my heart. All I am today, I owe it to you. Be sure, I'll see to it that you lack nothing. I'll keep sending you lots of money that you may live like a queen". Now, it's over a year since he left, but he sent me nothing. I am starving. I live from hand to mouth. I feel let down and forgotten.

"You mean", Mrs. Kulkarni replied: "That he has not written even a single letter to you from the day he left? I can't believe it. He was such a loving and wonderful son. In fact, quite often I said to myself: How lucky Mrs. D'Costa is having a son like Johnny!"

"Yes,, Mrs. Kulkarni, I have to say: letters he sends me every dew days. But money

or help? Nothing at all!. I am a pauper now and forced to live like a beggar. I am ashamed to have to confide to you that I borrow money from friends and acquaintances just not to starve."

"If you do not mind, Mrs. D'Costa, can you show me some of letters Johnny has sent you?"

Mrs. Kulkarni said. "Yes, I'll just show you the last letter I received from him. All his previous letters, in anger, I tore and threw away. I'll show you also the thing that angers me most. You know, along with the letters, Johnny keeps sending me some old, soiled useless pictures. Who cares for old and useless pictures? I threw them away. Does he think that I am going to collect all that rubbish?"

When Mrs. Kulkarni saw the old, soiled and useless pictures that arrived along with the last letter of Johnny, was shocked and exclaimed. "What: have you done? Mrs. D'Costa? Did you not realize that these soiled and useless pictures Johnny has been sending you with love, and you in anger threw away, were precious and valuable currency notes from foreign countries?"

## **THE UNKNOWN BANK-ACCOUNT**

Mr. Brown, a multimillionaire loved Jimmy, his grand-son very dearly. Without informing him, just with the thought of giving him a surprise, he opened in his name a large bank-account. He intended to hand him over the pass-book on his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

Unfortunately, Mr. Brown died unexpectedly of a heart attack. All his children were generously provided in his last will. No mention was made therein of Jimmy's bank account. No one ever knew of the intended surprise waiting Jimmy on his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. That account remained forever locked, unused and forgotten.

In the passing of time Jimmy, unfortunately, did not do well in life. He thought himself to be a poor and destitute man when actually speaking, he was a millionaire. He indulged in self-pity.

After many years of frustration and resentments, forgotten by all the family, he died alone in a Home for the Destitute.