

JUST A DREAM?

Intent of this story

- ✓ *The only remedy to cure our violent and unjust world is Love*
- ✓ *No amount of laws, or economical projects, or repression will ever make our world a better one*
- ✓ *The maladies of our world lie deep in our human heart*
- ✓ *Without a change of heart, our world will remain a heartless one..*

A STORY

When I woke up in the morning I just wondered: “Was it just a dream or?” I do not know. Just in case, here it is:

Millions of people tired of exploitation, weary of so much violence and wars in our world, migrated to other planets.

I, with many other thousands, managed to land on a planet called Lusitanus. It was a beautiful earth. Therein were enchanting woods and scented flowers. The soil was very rich. We soon got acclimatized to our new environment. We were exceedingly happy.

We wanted to build a better world, a world in peace and love, a world without hatred and wars. We, the new arrivals, began multiplying very fast, filling the new earth. Bit by bit, we built a new world. All over, one could see new houses, new cities, new roads and railways. The new planet was a human bee-hive humming with life and activity.

With dogged tenacity we erected factories, commercial houses, business, sport complexes, theatres cinema houses, hospitals, colleges and research centers. Production and consumption went on increasing.

Slowly, imperceptibly first, more noticeably as time went on, we grew greedy for money, material prosperity and wealth. Then, quarrels and wranglings over business transactions, properties, marriages, and inheritances began.

Bit by bit, people started cheating their neighbors and taking advantages of the weak. Slowly, exploitation and oppression set in. Some people became very rich and influential, others poorer and destitute. With authority and power in their hands, the higher-ups framed the laws of the country protecting their interests. The rich grew richer and richer, and the poor, poorer.

Unhappiness and frustration set in, anger, quarrels, struggles followed. Finally, violence appeared and deadly wars broke in! It was a terrifying sight! In my dreadful dream, I asked myself: “Where am I? Then, I heard a loud and chilling voice telling me: “You, Lusitanians, have changed planets but not your hearts!

I woke up with a start. Yes, I realized that I was still on our earth, and what was, worse still, with my old heart! I asked myself: “Can’t we not humans change our hearts and consequently our earth?”

Points for Reflection and Discussion

1. Who do the Lusitanians stand for in the story?
2. Why did they manage, at the start to build a better world in their new planet?
3. What did they finally build up there? Why?

4. What's the root cause of troubles and quarrels, of violence and wars in our world,?
5. Has our world here on earth, any hopes of improvement? What? How?
6. Should we go out of our earth to another planet to build a better world? Why?
7. What would you consider a just, loving and peaceful world? Describe.
8. Can we – you and I, in our little way, start already building it? How?

Thoughts Helpful for Teaching

1. The world structures will never change unless man changes his heart.
2. The problem with us earthlings does not lie outside us, but within us.
3. Because of greed, we have built an unjust and monstrous social, political and economical order, an exploitative and oppressive machine. The poor and the powerless are sacrificed to the convenience of the rich and the powerful.
4. People with unchanged hearts, even if they moved to another planet, would build an exact replica of our earth.
5. It is not by running away from the world and human society that we shall be able to build a better world, but only by working from within our world with fresh values and a strong motivating love.
6. Unless there is a genuine love for others in our "hearts", our world will remain a "heartless" world.