

The Tree of Progress a Frankenstein!!!

Intent of the story:

- ✓ *To create an awareness of the deceptive promises of an unlimited progress.*
- ✓ *Any progress has to be sustainable; otherwise that very progress will bring its own downfall and ours too.*
- ✓ *Modern technology without wisdom, is like a running horse. It runs to its own destruction.*

AN ALLEGORY.

The earth was beautifully decked with green fields and color. The Mountain peaks were covered with a beautiful white mantel of snow. The hills fresh, populated by shadowy trees. The meadows were alive with flocks and cattle.

On earth, life was peaceful and contented. The shepherds happily tended their flocks. The farmers lovingly tilled their lands. There was peace on earth. People lived simple lives in joy with one another

Then, one day, some one came into the world carrying with him the magical seed of a tree that if planted on earth it would give to one and all prosperity, wealth and abundance of everything Earthlings listened to him with delight.

In the hope of better days to come, they planted that seed in the fertile soil of their earth. Very soon, that marvelous seed sprouted and began growing wild and fast.

Impatiently, earthlings kept watching their tree growing as it spread its branches far and wide, its roots sinking deep into the heart of mother earth, and its trunk growing thicker and taller, day by day.

Very soon, with awe and wonder people saw their tree giving them more abundant and larger fruits to eat, new vegetables, tastier and tastier eatables, never seen before and pleasant to their palates.

In return, for its bounty, people gave the tree more and more water, more and more manure and all sorts of nutrients to sustain its gigantic growth.

Day by day, the tree sunk its roots deeper and deeper below the soil and its branches spread wider and wider over the face of the earth

With surprise, one day the earthlings discovered that their tree was offering them not only fruits to eat but many other presents that would make their lives easier and pleasant, such as implements of work, books, clothing, small cozy houses, furniture items and the like.

Wild with joy, in return, people gave the tree more and more water and nourishment. They allowed the tree to spread its branches over larger and larger expanses of land

The bigger the tree grew; it offered people more and more marvelous comforts and beautiful gadgets like phones, radios, cosmetics, movies, fridges, cars, bikes, planes, rockets, internet, mobiles and so on.

Finally, the earthlings, besides themselves, with joy worshipped the tree and placed their present and their future life, and the one of the entire earth, into its hands.

Finally, years later, when the tree had grown to its full size and its roots had reached the very entrails of the earth and its branches covered the entire planet, humans realized – unfortunately too late - that the tree had robbed them of all living space, it had exhausted all the water and nutrients of the soil, and all the resources of the earth. **Finally, the tree died, and with it, the earth, all its peoples and all their progress.**

POINTS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION.

1. Explain what is the tree and its fruits and the earthlings in the Allegory?
2. What are the main lessons we learn from the allegory of the Tree of Progress?
3. Is not the belief in an unlimited progress sort of a collective suicide? Why?
4. What are the evils of the myth of unlimited progress?
5. Why we, earthlings are so gullible to believe in that myth?
6. What's meant by sustainable progress?
7. Is it possible? What's necessary to make it possible?
8. We have enough evidence that we run a suicidal race of production and consumption. Why do we not quit the race?

EXPLAIN THE MEANING OF THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES:

- Modern technology and science are real Frankensteins
- Our earth has enough resources to satisfy everybody's needs, but not everybody's greed
- Earthlings are prompt to believe what they dream of.
- Love made the world, greed destroys it.
- It's more consoling to believe in beautiful lies than to accept hard reality
- Modern progress is intoxicating. The more we have the more we want, even if it kills us!
- Our culture is a throw away culture.
- Consume more, means produce more. Produce more means destroy more..
- Technology and science in the hands of uncritical minds are like deadly poisons in the hands of a child.
- Not all that is technically possible is morally good and advisable..
- The world economy as it is run today is a murderer of the yet unborn.
- Economy means "to economize," not "to waste".