

# A WONDERFUL VILLAGE TO LIVE IN!!

*From: Stories, Parables and Fables of life of P. Ribes, s.j*  
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## Intent of these notes

- ✓ *To become aware of the Injustice and exploitation going on in our Global Village – Our Planet Earth.*
- ✓ *The Social Problem. Ills and Remedies.*
- ✓ *Charity or Justice? Charity and justice?*

## The Allegory.

Lost in a charming corner of the world, unknown to all and even unmapped, there was a small beautiful village. Rich and fertile fields surrounded that village. The countryside was loaded with flocks and herds, the land around were fruitful and cool, the crops yielded a hundred fold. The valleys and prairies around were punctuated with small lakes and springs of crystal water. The subsoil beneath the village was hiding untold riches of minerals and precious metals

Some social scientists that discovered the village and its wealth made a thorough survey of its inhabitants, its resources and the social conditions of the village.

### These were their findings

- In that village there were only 100 families.
- Out of 100 families, only 35 were somewhat literate.
- 70 had no available drinking water at home.
- 7 families out of 100 owned 70% all the lands and forests.
- Those 7 families consumed 90% of all the available energy in the village.
- Only those 7 families enjoyed all the luxury articles available in that hamlet.
- Only the children of one family in the entire village secured higher education.
- 60% of the population lived in the outskirts of the village in unhealthy shanty huts.
- 60% of the villagers had no electric light, running water, toilets and sanitation.
- **Only one family had the power to make rules and regulations to govern the life of the villagers! All the rest had to submit!**

(Adaptation of the “Secular Parable” of Dr. Karl Sagan.)

## **POINTS FOR DISCUSSION:**

1. Why were there such glaring disparities in that village? Find as many reasons as you can.
2. Do you think that the people in that village could live in peace and harmony with one another? Why?
3. Could the HAVE-NOTS of that village, left to their own resources, improve their hopeless situation? Why?
4. Do you think that the people in that village would be able to live happily and in peace with one another, if the few wealthy persons of that village were generous enough to dole on them lots of charity? Why?
5. What is the difference between JUSTICE AND CHARITY?
6. What comes first: Charity or Justice? What is the first thing that charity should give to the exploited?
7. According to your view, to improve their situation, what should the HAVE NOTS be given first of all? Write serial numbers in front of the items mentioned below according to your priority values. Explain why you have chosen such priorities.
  - ✓ Food
  - ✓ Housing
  - ✓ Lands
  - ✓ Money
  - ✓ Education
  - ✓ Luxuries
  - ✓ Sanitation
  - ✓ Freedom and power to manage their lives.
  - ✓ Is there still something missing? Mention it.
8. Do you think that the HAVES would easily agree to share their privileges and their wealth with the HAVE -NOTS? Why? What is your experience?
9. Has there ever been such village on earth or is just an invention of the writer of the story?
10. What's the real name of that WONDERFUL VILLAGE?
11. What is happening in our 'GLOBAL VILLAGE'? Describe the similarities of what went on there in that imaginary village and what is going on here in our earth at large?
12. Are the HAVES of the Global village, more just and fair than The HAVES of that forgotten village? What makes you say so?
13. Have you realized that the statistical percentages of the socio-economical conditions of that forgotten village, are precisely those obtaining today in our world, yes, in our global Village!
14. Are we today in a scientific and technological age, on the right path to solve the problems of human injustice and exploitation? Why?
15. What could be done? What should be done?