

12. You Have to Keep Carrying out Whatever You Are Called to Do

These days there are many people who tend to suddenly stop doing important things which they have been doing or involved in. They may give many excuses for this, but it is mainly from a lack of patience and self-sacrifice as well as a lack of love arising from such selfishness. As a result, families become broken and companies and societies stop developing when faced with unstable situations.

In contrast there should always be people who keep their positions and carry out their duties whether they are sick or not, they have pain or not, or even when they are in a situation where their life is at stake.

To help make the world more beautiful and happy Kkottongnae would like to deliver a spiritual word to those who get tired in their body and mind, about the importance of keeping their positions. ∞You have to keep carrying out whatever you are called to do."

A Painful Memory of a Boy

A father facing his impending death called his little son who was about to leave home for school three times to stay with him, telling "Please stay with me since I have such a terrible stomachache." Every time he was called, the boy returned and caressed his sick father's

belly but he left home soon after so that he would not be absent from school. He left his sick father behind at home for school, saying, "Father, you have always told me not to stop doing whatever things I am doing in order to be a great man, so I have to go to school." However, later that day during the class he got the news of his father's death.

This is the real story of Father Oh Woong-Jin, a founder of Kkottongnae, who always keeps this painful childhood story in his mind.

However, what he did was true to the manner that he had been taught at home. His parents used to tell him: "Since you were born with a good conception dream you will one day have an influential power over people. You always have to keep going to the end of whatever important thing you are doing."

A boy, Oh Woong-Jin, liked hunting when he was young, and one day he caught a wildcat in a trap. He witnessed the wildcat keeping a stick in its mouth even until after it had died. The image of this incident left a strong impression on him and he has always led a life of never stopping whatever he began to do.

Being Sick and Working Are Two Different Things

After soldiers from an airborne troop did voluntary work at Kkottongnae, they made a joke that contains a certain truth when they said that working at Kkottongnae is more difficult than the training involved in parachuting from high-altitude. So, as even the brave soldiers say in telling such a story, sometimes the religious also get hurt in their mind and body from taking care of the Kkottongnae family. Whenever the religious feel weak and wish to stop working, Father Oh does not console the weary religious, but instead he has encouraged us spiritually, by saying, *“Being sick and working are two different things. You have to work even when you are sick. If you cannot stand up, then work sitting down. If you cannot sit down, then work lying down. If you cannot lie down, just work opening your eyes. If you cannot open your eyes, then work closing your eyes. If you cannot close your eyes, then keep doing Kkottongnae work even unto death.”*

Even though there have been a lot of difficulties in Kkottongnae since its beginning, and it is to be expected that there will be more agony and pain in the future, the spiritual words of the founding father to the religious is always with us, *“Keep carrying out whatever you are called to do.”* The Kkottongnae religious should keep working and going on our way even when we are sick and even when there is no help or encouragement from others.

There Is No Vacation at Kkottongnae.

Many people have tried to make their weekends meaningful since the new five-day work system per week launched, but it is a meaningless system to the religious and voluntary workers at Kkottongnae. Rather, the religious have to work even more to make up for the absence of the staff

and voluntary workers on holidays or consecutive weekends.

The religious at Kkottongnae do not have a vacation. The Kkottongnae community has ‘a family concept’ so we call the patients here ‘family members’ not inmates. Since the religious are not salaried workers, they do not have office hours and annual vacations that are allowed to most of the regular workers.

It is just the same with the parents who have sick children at home. They do not leave or do not take vacations. The religious are supposed to be ready to devote themselves to Kkottongnae at any time or in any situation. *They should be rangers who are checking Kkottongnae day and night and taking care of any in need.*

They have to be alert and work for 24 hours. In the Bible, when the Jews began to persecute Jesus, because he had done the healing on a Sabbath, Jesus said, *“My Father is always working, and I too must work”* (John 5: 17) and kept working. Father Oh Woong-Jin has been awakening and encouraging the religious to live a love life without stopping, saying, *“Let’s take an eternal rest after we die.”*

There Are People Who Are Doing Their Duties

These days the number of families who end their married life and get divorced when they are experiencing misfortune is increasing greatly.

So they give up their duty as parents and spouses. Some students leave their school with the excuse of not liking studying or having different aptitude. Some workers resign their job with the excuse of discord with a boss. Soldiers escape from the camp because they cannot manage the hardship. Even the religious leave the convent when