

14. Leave the Thing that Is Right as It Is, But Make the Thing that Is Upside-Down Upright: Make a Real Problem Come into Focus

serious cases back to Kkottongnae Hospital. Accidentally, they happened to find a man lying with his face down on the stairs.

Father Oh, having a lot of experience in taking care of such cases, had a feeling that the man was not alive and when he had examined the man carefully he confirmed that he was already dead.

People had just passed by this poor dying neighbor inadvertently without noticing his death, assuming that here was a drunken man lying on his face.

Even the homeless people who were drinking near this dead man did not notice his death. Even when a number of people were making a big fuss around the dead man, they kept on drinking and reveling, and remained unconcerned in spite of the racket being made from the noise of an ambulance and people.

The authorities who came were absorbed in dealing with this matter just in a businesslike way. Nobody mourned for the dead man or seemed either sad or solemn in the face of the poor man's death. No citizens were responsible for the death of that homeless person. However, we Kkottongnae religious prayed wholeheartedly beside the body lying on the cold floor of the underground passage: "Lord,

forgive the sins of this brother and forgive the sins of us and the whole world that made him die like this, and allow him to enter heaven." After we finished the baptism procedure and prayer, we found another homeless brother at the same place. He was wandering around, suffering from tuberculosis and alcoholism. We brought him into our car and returned to Kkottongnae.

Seeing the unconscionable world... absurd world... where people are just working at their own things, even being indifferent to a person who is dying next to them, leads us to pray and think.

How can we make what is upside-down be upright?

To make an alcoholic be upright, we need a lot of devotion and sacrifice.

A man named Insik Chung was living in Kkottongnae for over 10 years. His story is an agonizing one of repeatedly coming in and out of Kkottongnae for more than 100 times. He ended his life by dying from a traffic accident on a street. Even though Fr. Oh Woong-Jin opened a nursing home for alcoholics like him in 1989, he kept leaving the nursing home and

coming back as an invalid soaked in drink. During his stay at the nursing home he was treated well and recovered his health, but soon after he left each time his body and mind became completely broken. This was repeated countless times and finally he left us forever. When we once asked him how long we had to have such patience for his behavior, he answered humorously like this: "How is it said in the bible? Isn't it written there to forgive him seventy times seven?" As he wished, we always welcomed and treated him with warm heart every time he returned to Kkottongnae, and we held a courteous funeral for him after he died.

Some people might say about this man that he failed because he couldn't stop drinking. However, we can't change anybody by judging him; or keep on giving him a scolding to stop his drinking and calling the family to account. Rather, the time, which he had when he was being accepted, endured and being loved without any condition up to the last moment, was the most valuable healing time for him. It was the opportunity for a person abandoned even by his family to be treated as a person with dignity and who, for a time at least could stand upright.

A man who became freed from alcoholism through Kkottongnae once confessed like this: "I was in a condition where I had even given up on myself, being abandoned even by a psychiatrist; my whole being was trapped within myself by my alcoholism, paranoia, and depression. But my wife, despite getting hurt by me everyday, didn't give me up and she kept our home going with tears and sacrifice.

She prayed with her whole heart for about 6 years including visiting Kkottongnae twice a month in this desperate situation. One day when my wife was praying staying up all night at Kkottongnae, I heard a voice: 'If you drink even a drop, you won't get peace of your mind.' Since then I have completely stopped drinking and smoking. This happened because my wife's prayer penetrated heaven." After that time the family could stand upright. The reason why this family could stand upright was not because of the people who had scolded him over his drinking, threatened him to get divorced, or called the people who had provided the abnormal environment to account, but it was because of the wife's prayer. It was because of a wife who had accepted her husband's wrongs without any condition, and who had lived a life of love with sacrifice and tears.

The founder of Kkottongnae, Fr. Oh Woong-Jin, preaches to us that we need a spiritual practice that will keep the right thing as it is but make the upside-down thing be upright:

"It is all right if you make a real problem come into focus as a question, but if you make something which is of no matter come into question, then it does become a problem."

The reason why there are so many problems in this world is because we didn't make the real problems come into question. Mother Teresa once pointed that '**abortion is the biggest weapon which destructs humans.**' Today only few people make the abortion problem, which is actually the biggest problem come into question. Most people make the claim that the economy is the first issue, but the important reality is where

