

20. Kkottongnae Is a Place for Salvation Work

Kkottongnae is not just a place for social or welfare work or charity work, but a place for the salvation of human beings.

Real love is required to deliver a life.

The real love reveals when you sacrifice and devote yourself and even risk your life on behalf of the pain and death of the deserted.

A Beggar Is a Person Who Never Gives But Does Nothing But to Ask for

Family members institutionalized at Kkottongnae are starved for love.

They give the helpers and voluntary workers hard time asking and complaining continuously to relieve their thirst of love. It is like throwing water on thirsty soil. It is not an easy job to live with a person who is doing nothing but to ask for something. Father Oh, the founder of Kkottongnae, defined **a beggar as a person who never gives but does nothing but to ask for** after his living with beggars for tens of years.

A young man with large intestine cancer was institutionalized at Kkottongnae.

The cancer has already spread into the other parts of his body, that there was an apple-sized pit around his anus. He was miserably facing

death with maggots on his rotten flesh around the anus. He grew up with a dark childhood locked in hatred and curse since his mother abandoned him due to her concupiscence. One day, he was introduced a woman by his friend. As soon as he met her, he committed a rape cheating her with wine with a sleeping pill. After that he forced her to live with him in her house driving out her co-workers and acted as her husband. He even took the money the woman had earned working hard at a factory and had sent to her parents penny by penny, and made frequent physical attacks on her.

The forced-to-be a wife suffered living with the bad man, who took everything from her, for several years and decided to run away from him finally. But she became to know that he got a cancer just before leaving. She, who was about to leave the man who ruined her life, gave up her plan and unpacked her baggage. The innocent and good wife did not have the heart to leave the sick man, but even used up all her money left to pay for the medical fee. Meanwhile, she gave birth to a baby boy.

The poor wife devoted all her effort, but the man kept on demanding and treating her cruelly far from being thankful. The friends of him felt so sorry on her that they forced her to



A priest from Kkottongnae is conversing with a person who lives alone at an abandoned house.

leave him to start a new life, and carried the dying patient on a stretcher to his mother's house.

People Who Do Nothing But to Ask Changed to People Who Can Give

The mother who found the patient at her door recognized him as her son, but she reported the police to take the unknown abandoned man away. So, she deserted her own son twice. The man to be taken to a hospital met a kind voluntary worker and received a good care. However, since there was no more available treatment for the cancer and no place to take him, he was taken into Kkottongnae by the help of the voluntary worker.

His existence always weighed heavy on the voluntary workers mind with a lot of pain, who were taking care of him.

They felt sorry whenever they could not respond to the demand from him, and suffered from watching a young body decaying without having a time of blooming. It was even more difficult to watch him who was cursing his mother and blaming his wife. They prayed everyday for getting rid of his hatred and resentment which was eroding his soul, picking up maggots on his wound one by one. After several months' hard time of inquiring here and there all over the country, the husband and wife with a son became to have a dramatic meeting. At the place, we prayed like this: **"Who is the perpetrator and who is the victim? Lord, we are a perpetrator to each other and a victim at the same time.** Now what is left to us is to forgive and love each other." After the prayer, they cried hugging without saying anything.

The wife said good-bye saying that she would come back again to take care of him with getting her parents' permission, but she did not come back after all. The patient told his last words with a change of his mind on his deathbed like this: "I-- now--forgive--my mother--who had abandoned--me twice--so I--hated to kill. And--send--my--words--to--my wife--who ruined--her life--because of--me, to raise--our son--well--and--live--happily." And then he said he would donate his eyes to blind neighbors thanking the world for helping him.

To Love Is Not to Share But to Give the Whole

A person who has not received love does not know how to love.

Salvation is to serve a person and change him/her who has not received and offered love into a person who can offer love. A person who does nothing but to ask becomes to be changed into a person who can give something. The love only to share cannot lead a person to the point of salvation.

Social work or charity work running only with money, materials, programs, or organizations cannot change a person. The real love of giving my whole and even my life, and the love of even taking pain and death on behalf of neighbors can deliver a person and make him/her reborn. It is because the essence of love is on giving the whole not just on sharing.

The good wife's pathetic sacrifice who gave out everything of hers to her husband, who did nothing but to ask her everything, and the life of voluntary workers and the religious' life-long love was not in vain but could deliver a soul.

The wife tried hard to keep the promise but could not come back to Kkottongnae owing to her parents' strong opposition. She barely made a visit to her husband's grave after the funeral. When she heard her husband's last will for her to live a happy life, tears of sadness and happiness gathered in her eyes.

Like this, if we love our neighbors until we get to feel spiritually poor because we do not have any more left despite wishing to give more after giving out everything, a person can experience a change of his/her mind and can be delivered through us who live a spiritual life of poverty.

"Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor; the kingdom of heaven belongs to

them (Matthew 5: 3)."

Kkottongnae is doing human salvation work.

A priest of Kkottongnae baptizes a baby who has become a family member of Kkottongnae.

