

The Art of Sharing

LET YOUR GENTLENESS BE EVIDENT TO ALL.

Story by Character Education

A young student was taking a walk with a professor, who he endearingly calls a friend; because of the kindness that he shows to those who wait on his instructions.

As they were walking along, they saw, lying in their path, a pair of old shoes. Which they supposed must belong to a poor man that was working in a field close by, and given the time he would be nearly finished with his day's work.

The student turns to the professor, and says: "Let's play a trick on the man; we will hide his shoes, and conceal ourselves behind those bushes, and wait to see his perplexity when he cannot find them."

"My friend," answered the professor, "we should never amuse ourselves at the expense of the poor. But you are rich and may give yourself a much greater pleasure by means of the poor man. Put a coin into each shoe, and then we will hide and watch how the discovery affects him."

The student and the professor did so, by placing themselves behind the bushes. The poor man upon finishing his work and came across the field to the path where he had left his coat and shoes. While putting on his coat, he slipped his foot into one of his shoes; but feeling something hard, he stooped down to feel what it was, and found the coin. Astonishment and wonder were upon his countenance. He gazed upon the coin, turned it around, and looked at it again and again. He then looked around him on all sides, but not a person was in view. He now put the money into his pocket and proceeded to put on his other shoe, but his astonishment was doubled on finding the another coin. His feelings overcame him; he fell upon his knees, looked up to heaven and uttered aloud a fervent thanksgiving, in which he spoke of his wife, sick and helpless, and his children without bread, whom the timely bounty, from some unknown hand, would save them all from perishing.

The student stood there deeply affected, and his eyes filled with tears. "Now," said the professor, "are you not much better pleased than if you had played your intended trick?" The youth replied, "You have taught me a lesson which I will never forget. I feel now the truth of those words, which I never understood before: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"