

THE FACTORY IN MAN'S HEART

Intent of the Script

- ✓ *The script touches basic issues dealing with the three ultimate realities: God – Others and Self*
- ✓ *The script is very concise and contains points that require serious thinking and reflection.*
- ✓ *These jottings are not meant for general public, but only for a minority of thinking people. .*
- ✓ *Each of the thirteen statements of the script would supply enough matter for one full session.*

THE SCRIPT

If you would be able to pry into men's hearts, what do you think we would see there?

In some hearts we may find love and kindness; in not so many, joy and peace: in others, hatred and renegefulness: in others, fears and apprehensions: still in others, regrets and guilt.

However, if you would be able to plummet into the innermost centre of man's hearts what would you discover there? You might notice that each man is unconsciously, extremely busy, night and day: manufacturing devices sort of shields and armors to protect himself from the ultimate realities of life, namely: **Self, Others and God!** Namely:

1. Creating idols to protect himself from the living God.
2. Fabricating fears to shield himself from anxiety.
3. Forging beliefs to cover up his unbelief.
4. Creating illusions to protect himself from his poor self-image.
5. Framing moral norms to safeguard his immorality.
6. Molding social conventions to keep away from intimacy.
7. Inventing laws and regulations to free himself from the risk of freedom.
8. Saying prayers to avoid praying.
9. Inventing rites and rituals to escape reality

10. Offering sacrifices to placate God's anger
11. Piling up personal merits to buy God's love and salvation.
12. Introjecting public opinion to avoid personal thinking.
13. Loving things instead of loving people
14. Putting on blinkers to see only what he wants to see

Is not man's heart a busy factory?

When shall we realize that we are scared to face GOD – OTHERS - SELF?

HINTS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

One way of going about this script would be to ask the participants to reply in writing to the following general questions and then hold a discussion of what they have written.

1. What's the meaning and implications of this script as a whole? Explain
2. Do you agree or disagree with it?
3. What may be the reasons for the "shielding", "avoidance" and "escapism" found in the human heart?
4. Can you give some instances to confirm any of the statements made in the story?
5. Could you share some of your personal experiences?
6. Could you add a few items more to the list of articles manufactured in the human heart?

A second way to go about for the reflection and discussion of this script would be:

Ask the participants to reflect on each of the fourteen statements in the script.

After the time for reflection over, take them one by one for sharing and discussion

A FINAL PRAYER

This is We!

Lord, open our minds and hearts that we may know you our Creator

Open our eyes that we may know ourselves, your images!

Give us the courage and the humility

to accept both

our greatness and our littleness

our honesty and our dishonesty

Oh, Lord for how long shall we be pretenders?

We adduce pretexts to excuse our sins

We blame others to excuse ourselves

We build delusions to protect our poor self-image

We carve idols to avoid worshiping you the living God.

We compose prayers to avoid praying;

We create rites and rituals to escape reality.

We do good works to buy your love, oh Father.

We do penance to shield ourselves from your anger. ;

We dress smart to conceal our physical ugliness

We fake business to hide our laziness.

We forge beliefs to cover up our unbelief;

We frame moral norms to cover up our immorality

We impress others to hide our insecurity

We invent laws to do away with freedom

We manufacture fears to escape anxiety

We mould social conventions to keep away from intimacy

We overspend to disguise our poverty.

We pile up personal merits to earn salvation.

We pull down others to get on top of them.

We rationalize our choices to validate them

We speak loud to cover our shyness.

We talk much to hide our ignorance.

When shall we show to the world that we are your children?