

# **GOLDEN, SILVER AND BLACK INK.**

*From: Stories, Parables and Fables of life of P. Ribes, s.j.*

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## **Intent of the Story**

- ✓ *Never think yourself better than others*
- ✓ *God looks at the heart, we out the outside*
- ✓ *God rewards our efforts not our success*
- ✓ *Catechism and value education talks*

## **Target Audience**

*Children*

## **The Story**

Charlie was a clever and well-behaved child. His Parents were pretty rich. At home he could enjoy many comforts and luxuries. In school his teachers loved him and praised him a lot. He used to stand among the first pupils in his class. He thought no end of himself. One day, during the examinations, after he had finished his paper, while waiting for the bell, he fell sleep and had a dream. His dream puzzled him a lot, so he told his teacher about it.

“While I was waiting for the bell to ring for the end of Examination period, I was tired and drowsy and fell asleep. In a dream, I saw my classmates writing their exams. They were struggling to finish their paper. I, being a clever student, not as many others who are dull and lazy, had finished much earlier.

In my dream I saw that next to each pupil there was a strange fellow sitting by his side. They looked very fair and hansom. I guessed they were Guardian Angels. Each Angel had a book and they were busy writing on them. On the cover of each book I could read the name of the pupil next to whom he was sitting

Out of curiosity, I got up and went around the class looking at what the Angels were writing. They were recording what each pupil was doing, their behavior and their application. What surprised me most was to see that some angels were writing the books of the naughtiest and backward children in beautiful hand-writing and n Golden Ink, while the books of some of the cleverest and better off pupils were written in shabbier handwriting, in silver or even in ordinary plain black ink..

Then, it occurred to me to check in what sort of handwriting and ink my Guardian angel was writing my book. I peeped over his shoulder and, I was shocked! He was writing shabbily and with plain water. No sooner he wrote a line, the writing evaporated. My entire book was blank! Noting was written on it! Then, I woke up...., in alarm I asked myself. What’s the meaning of this dream? I am disturbed. Why only I, of all my classmates, got a blank and empty book?”

### **SOME POINTS FOR REFLECTION AND SHARING**

1. Why did the Angels use different color inks and handwritings – neater or shabbier - for different pupils?
2. Why many of the cleverest and better behaved children in the class got their books written in poor hand-writing and in silver or ordinary ink?
3. Was it fair of the Angels to write the books of some of the dullest and worst - behaved children in the best handwriting and with golden ink?
4. `Why Charlie’s Angel was writing Charlie’s book with plain water and in shabby handwriting?
5. Could Charlie, in the future, manage to get his book written in beautiful handwriting and in golden ink? How?
6. What advice would you give to Charlie?
7. If this story would be real, with what sort of handwriting and with what sort ink would your Guardian Angel write your book? Why?
8. What will you do to have your book written in the best handwriting and in golden ink?

### **IDEAS FOR AN INPUT**

- We should be good and do our work honestly to please God, not so much to please others, even Teachers, Parents, our Elders.
- We have to be humble and never compare ourselves to others, much less thinking ourselves better or cleverer than the others.
- We have to keep in mind that not child has been blessed by God with the same gifts and facilities many of you have, like good brains, highly educated parents, tuitions, well-to-do families, good health, better arrangements to do our work, etc.
- Not all of us are good at everything. All of us have positive and negative qualities, virtues and defects.
- Even those who look bad to us, have many good qualities and lovable dispositions, which we do not know. There are treasures in each one’s heart.
- We have to love and respect all our classmates irrespectively from what they look their economical status, their family conditions, their religion or any other differences we may exist among us.
- We have to remember that many of our classmates have to learn the hard way without much help from others
- Many children from our very class may be suffering the effects of poverty, poor housing, family problems, ill health, etc.
- We have love and help them and be compassionate towards them.
- God only knows who are the best children in our class..
- Before God those who look worse to us, may be the best!

### **Explain the following sentences.**

- Not all that glitters is gold.
- Man looks at the appearances, God at the heart.
- We may find treasure in earthen pots.
- Do not look at the wrapper but at the gift.