

## THE SAVIOURS

### Intent of the fable.

- ✓ *The fable of the Moles is meant to exemplify and expose the mentality and ideology of certain esoteric groups – religious and secular - in vogue in today's world'.*
- ✓ *Many of them think themselves to be saved and saviors, they deem themselves better than the rest of men, models to be followed, full of missionary zeal and proselytism.*

## The Fable.

When bigger mammals and men emerged on the face of the earth some animals got alarmed. From now on, to live on the surface of the earth was dangerous. They were hunted, their habitat destroyed, the air and water was polluted, their morals corrupted, their lives were threatened.

Of all animals, the moles seemed to be most alarmed. In a panic their leader addressed his fellow moles: "Friends, it's not safe any more for us to live on the surface of the earth. There are too many hazards to our health and to our well-being, even to our moral standards, we shall not survive here! The best solution left to us is to withdraw from the surface of this dangerous earth. Friends, let us dig burrows into the entrails of the soil so that deep under the ground we may escape our corrupted and perilous world.

In no time, the moles drilled deep tunnels below the surface of the earth and started living a subterranean and withdrawn existence. Their underground life was very arduous, yet they felt secure. To survive in their burrows under the soil, they had to adopt new styles of life and work. They had to evolve a new value system and accordingly formulate a new philosophy of life.

There was a modicum of air to breathe. Food was scarce. They had to work hard to survive. They were barred from social life. Genuine friendships and personal relationships were impossible. Strict community life was a must. Their life became highly disciplined, stereotyped and regimented.

Time and again their leaders kept indoctrinating and brain-washing them: "Dear brother and sister moles; we are a lucky lot! We have been saved from the contamination and the dangers of the world outside! We are a chosen species! Remember that outside, in the world, our brother and sister animals are spoiled and threatened, while we here live the healthiest, purest and most satisfying lives. God has saved us from the corruption of the world so that we may become models and inspire others to follow our example."

And all the moles went on mouthing those beautiful slogans! "Yes. We have been saved from the corrupted and dangerous world. Yes! We are a chosen species. We are an inspiration to all to follow."

One day, in their enthusiasm some moles rose up and said to their companions: "If only those poor and wretched animals in the world outside could witness our happy existence, our community living, the quality of our lives, they would readily follow our example and be saved! Come on! Let us go out to that wicked world to preach our gospel of salvation to our brothers and sisters and bring them with us to the burrows!"

The best moles full of zeal and concern for their terrestrial brothers and sisters left their underground dwelling. As they emerged from their dark burrows into the brightness of the world, into the exhilarating atmosphere of the earth, their eyes ached terribly, their ears could not bear the noises of the world up there, their lungs got choked with the first blast of fresh air, their thick black furs could not stand the stinging heat of the sun.

Soon, they beat a hasty retreat and betook themselves to their burrows never to be seen again on the surface of the earth!

### **Questions for Reflection and Discussion.**

1. Why did some animals feel threatened when men and big mammals appeared on earth?
2. How did they defend themselves from the threats and the dangers of the world?
3. Did the measures they took, really improve the quality of their lives? Why?
4. Why in order to maintain their new style of life, strict regimentation and uniformity were required?
5. Why did their leaders keep on indoctrinating and brainwashing them?
6. Could the moles – in their burrows – be in touch with the realities of the world outside?
7. Could they be relevant to those living in the world outside and help them? Why?
8. To help others in our world – corrupt or not, as it may be – what will be more effective: withdrawal or insertion? Why?
9. Explain how and why the moles thought themselves better than all the rest even to the extreme of thinking themselves as models for all to follow?
10. Explain why when Moles came out of the burrows to improve the condition of the world outside, they were an utter failure
11. Can you apply the story of the moles to many over-zealous, ultra fundamentalist conservative, self-righteous enthusiastic religious denominations, groups and sects proliferating in our world? How? Explain.
12. Keeping the story of the moles as a background stage, try to spell the characteristics of these groups; their mystic, ideology, regimentation, brain-washing techniques, authority and organizational patterns, styles of life, proselytizing zeal and their relevance or irrelevance to our society at large.