

HOPE FOR THE WORLD THE SEEDS

*From: Stories, Parables and Fables of life of
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Intent of the story:

- ✓ *The fable describes different possible attitudes to life and people that we may entertain. Some attitudes are healthy, others are not, namely:.*

1 st :	<u>Extroverted and Superficial:</u>	To see places, to go about, Enjoy
2 nd :	<u>Friendly and Outgoing.</u>	To be with people, with company
3 rd :	<u>Introverted and Selfish.</u>	To be left alone and to be cared for.
4 th :	<u>Utterly Selfish.</u>	Unwillingness to share, suffer and grow
5 th :	<u>Utterly Unselfish.</u>	Ready to die for others and bear fruit for them.

- ✓ *By reflecting on the seeds' attitudes we may discover our basic attitudes –healthy or may be unhealthy.*

The Story.

Once upon a time, in a florist shop a little bag of seeds was lying there for sale. For many days, no buyer fell for it. Confined to the bag, life for the seeds became boring. One day was like any other. To while away their long hours, the seeds used to converse among themselves.

One seed said:

“I wish to be planted soon.

I want to get out of this bag and see places.

I dream to be carried across mountain and valley,
River and lake, town and countryside.

I want to see the world!”

Another seed Interrupted:

**“As for me, I long to be nurtured in a
Small cozy, pretty garden.**

One of those gardens, where little children
Go to play, where lovers meet and talk sweet nothings.
I like to see people, to be with people, to mix with them.”

A third seed added:

**“I would like to be planted in a beautiful flower-pot
All by myself.**

I don't like other plants growing close to me. .
I want to be cared for by someone who loves flowers,

Someone, who will love me only,”
While the seeds were happily conversing in this way,

A fourth one cut in:

**” I am very happy and contented in this bag and in this shop!
Whilst here, I have nothing to bother about.**
Here, life is peaceful, I feel secure and untroubled.
Why this indecent haste to get out?”

Other seeds remonstrated:

**“Don’t you know that if you remain in this bag and in this shop
You will never bear fruit and flower?:**
You will never radiate joy, beauty and fragrance.
Worse still, you will never become what you are
Supposed to be, a bearer of sweet scented blossoms?

But he objected:

“Don’t you know that in order to bear flowers?
We have to be planted and die”
“I hate to be thrown in the ground.
It’s so rough! I can’t stand the heat of the sun,
Its scorches me all over! I do not want to die!”

Horrified by this talk, another seed exclaimed

**“Not at all! I don’t agree with you.
I am most eager to be planted in fertile soil.**
I know it is hard to die, yet, if death is the price
Of growth, I am ready to die!

Many other seeds joined her and said:

**“We want to bloom and blossom
To fill the world with perfume
We want to give our nectar to the bees
And our honey to mankind.
We trust in the gardener
We trust in the sun, the rain and in the breeze.
We know that after death, we shall be fully alive
We will carry seeds within us, seeds that will give
Birth to many scented flowers like ourselves!
We know deep down in our hearts that if we die a ‘single’ death,
We shall live a ‘thousand’ lives, and that this world
Will be a Better one!”**

(Adapted from a Spanish audiovisual : ‘LAS SEMILLAS’)

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. What is the main purpose or thrust of the fable of the seeds? Explain
2. According to the attitudes the seeds displayed towards life and others, how many types of seeds can you discover in the story?
3. What are the values implicit in those attitudes? Describe them.
4. What sort of seed are we supposed to be?
5. What gives meaning and satisfaction in life?
6. What sort of life would you consider worth-living? Why?
7. What and how can you contribute to the welfare the world? Explain
8. What do you understand by 'growth'? Is growing painful?
Is it joyous? Satisfying? Frustrating? Why?
9. Explain: Growth is a daily dying to enter into a new life every new day.
10. Explain the saying of Jesus: "Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it will not bear fruit. If it does, it will bear plentiful fruit"
11. What are the best attitudes or dispositions to live a fruitful life?
12. Looking at the way you lived in the past, what sort of seed have you been?
Explain.
13. Are you happy being what you are and doing what you do? Why?
14. Can you change for the better? How? What do you intend doing to keep growing and to better our world?
15. Explain the sentence: "There is hope for the world as long as there are seeds ready to die".