

THE STORY OF A BEAUTIFUL ISLAND

Adaptation of script of a Spanish Audiovisual. 'La Isla'

Intent of the story.

- ✓ *To open our eyes the fact that world's socio-economical order is based not on love and concern but greed.*
- ✓ *To question the legitimacy of the right to private ownership of the means of production.*
- ✓ *To examine what's the function and the limits of the personal right to property..*
- ✓ *To explain how our unjust and exploitative world order was born and established.*
- ✓ *To understand how in our world the rich become richer and the poor, poorer.*
- ✓ *To realize that the workers are not free in a 'free economy' market*
- ✓ *In today's' socio-economical set up, - **the poor and the deprived** - are just pawns in an economical chess-game of profits.*
- ✓ *To take note of the fact that today's economical order has forgotten God and the brotherhood of man.*
- ✓ *To be aware that even good and kind hearted people are contaminated by the spirit of gain and personal profit*
- ✓ *To make it clear that those fighting for justice will be prejudiced against by one and all.*

STORY First Part

Once upon a time, some adventurers sailed into the deep with the hope of discovering some unmapped land.

As luck would have it, they sighted a small island lost in the high seas. They landed on that island and explored it. It was a virgin soil, beautiful beyond compare!

As they set foot on that little paradise, they decided to stay there. They built a small cozy cottage and started new life there.

The weather was pleasant, and the soil generous, offering them nourishing and tasty fruits. They led happy and contented lives in their new found paradise. .

Many days later, a ship loaded with tourists came close to shores of the island. One of the Tourists spotted the little cottage the new settlers had built among the palm groves. In wonder he exclaimed: "Look, there is a little house over there among the groves. Surely, there must be people staying in this island. Let us land and see who they are!"

When the curious tourists went ashore, they were enthralled at the beauty of that little paradise. Some of them made up their minds to come back later on, and settle there.

Very soon, the news of the existence of that little unmapped paradise spread far and wide. Very soon, people from all over came and settled on that little heaven.

One of the first settlers in that island, seeing the large crowds coming to stay there, cried in alarm: “At the rate people come to settle in our island, very soon there will not be place for all to live here! Let us be wise”.

That wise islander along with his friends began, in a hurry, building fences around the most fertile parts of the island. Then, they affixed sign posts and labels on the fences with words unheard of before: “**Private property**” “**No Entry**”,. **Tresspassers Will Be Prosecuted**”. Later on, locks and iron gates appeared all along the fences.

Very soon, the rich and most fertile soil of the island was completely fenced and barb-wired. The minority of the 'wise ones' had taken possession of it all, while the large majority of the 'unwise' were pushed out and forced to stay on the rocky and barren outskirts of the island.

Very soon, the landless majority, living on the fringes of the island became poor, destitute and homeless. On the contrary, the minority - “The wise” - inside the fences, lived in palatial mansions rolling in the lap of luxury

When the starving majority peeping through the fences saw plenty of food being thrown into the garbage tins, pleadingly, asked those inside the fences: “Give us some of your food. We are starving outside here!”, the insiders replied: “If you want food, you will have to work for us”.

Those outside the fences, deprived and starving, had no other alternative but to work for the insiders. In return for their work, they got some crumbs thrown to them over the fences just enough to survive. They called them wages

In the course of time, the patience of the outsiders wore out. In desperation, one day, some of them tried to pull down the fences. They could not succeed. The fences were too strong.

One of the outsiders, assuming leadership for them all shouted: “In order to breakdown the fences, we have to unite, organize ourselves, and fight together” So, they organized themselves.

When the 'wise' insiders had a wind of what was going on outside their fences, they summoned the influential leaders of the poor outside and cajoled them with words like these: “Please, join us, we need you. Come inside our fences; we shall give you as much food as you want money too, even luxuries; but, in return you will have to defend our fences and protect our interests against the onslaughts of the outsiders. You will be our army, our police and our security guards.” Many of them joined the ranks of the insiders. Thus, **The army and the Police force were born**

Next, the leaders of the 'wise' called from outside the fences those who were clever and intelligent and won them over with words like these: “If you join us, we shall give you

facilities to study and do research. We shall teach you all we know, we shall build for you schools and colleges. In return, you will have to teach those outside to listen to us and to live in peace and harmony and to respect the law and order of the island”. It goes without saying that many of them joined the ranks of the insiders. They became their ‘Philosophers, their thinkers, their “ideology-makers”, their ‘intelligentsia’ Like this, **the capitalist, liberal, communist and consumerist ideologies, systems and structures were created!**

Then, again the leaders of the ‘wise’ called inside the pious, the religious minded and devoted members of the outside and brain-washed them thus: “Join us, we shall build for you beautiful seminaries and churches and faculties of theology and, of course, charitable institutions, free dispensaries, orphanages, and other works of beneficence for the poor and the down-trodden. You will be able to preach to the outsiders meekness, forgiveness, resignation to the divine providence and obedience to legal authorities.. So, some of the outsiders agreed – rather they were bluffed into - and joined the ranks of the insiders. They became moralists, theologians, social workers, religious leaders and preachers **and so religious ideologies and religious structures and remedial charitable net-works .were born. Thus, an oppressive. and exploitative society was established and reinforced.**

STORY Second Part

Few honest insiders realized that they had been unjust to their weaker brothers and sisters outside the fences.

Some among the insiders realized that the weak outside the fences , by uniting and working together, could one day become strong and bring down the fences.

Some of the ‘intelligentsia’ inside the fences discovered that outside the fences there were true values- such as solidarity, unity, brotherhood and sharing - not found in their learned books and universities,

Some of the religious minded inside discovered that Christ, the Son of God – was also born outside the fences, lived outside the fences and died outside the fences of the Jewish power elite

All those honest and well-meaning insiders who realized those things tried to come out of their fences and work for, and with the poor and exploited , yet they had to face mountains of prejudices.

Both

- From within: because the larger majority of the insiders treated them as traitors and renegades.
- and also from without, because a large portion of the outsiders were suspicious of them and totally indifferent to their well meant efforts,

In spite of the efforts of those generous and courageous persons – outsiders and insiders - ,injustice and exploitation went on

Even today, in that island, people outside the fences, go on dying in want, hunger and exploitation.

STORY Conclusion

But, why should we go on with the story of the Island? Let us be honest and courageous enough to realize that the world we live in, is a vast island, a beautiful and thickly populated island

Yes, our island is divided by fences separating the rich from the poor, the ‘haves’ from the ‘have-nots, the wealthy nations from the under developed ones

And now let us ask ourselves:

For how long will things go on like this in our island?

Is there no remedy to patch this cleavage that mars our beautiful EARTH?

POINTS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION:

1. **Is the story of a ‘Divided World’ just a tale, or does obtain in reality? Explain.**

It's more than a tale it's a transposition of a reality into a parable

The ‘island’ is our world at all levels: Our home, our city, our country; the five continents.

2. **Where are the problems of the Island found in our world?**

The problems of the island found all over. In all human societies, in all our socio-economical and political structures. Also in our institutions, parishes, even our families.

3. **What is the barbed wire? What does it stand for? What do the labels attached to it signify? ‘**

They signify not only the exclusive ownership people claim to have over the land and other means of production, but much more the greed to possess something exclusively for oneself, whence all fights, wars and conflicts arise.

4. **Are barbed wires and fences justified? How far? Why? How?**

The barbed wires are justified to a certain extent as practical means.

They should not impinge on other rights and properties

By their very nature they should be limited by the common good of society..

They have no absolute value. In case of extreme need, they can not only be pulled down, but even more, they should cease to exist.

5. **What do those inside the barbed wire signify?**

*The rich, the haves, the powerful and influential in any society, those who can manipulate **the power and cultural apparatuses** to their own advantage.*

6. What is meant by The Power apparatus?

The Power apparatus are all the repressive forces existing in the state: like the The Army, the Police, the Security the Judiciary and the Legislature. They have the power to enact laws and enforce their compliance through punishment and repression.. The powerful and those in command of society can use or misuse them to their benefit.

7. What is meant by cultural apparatus?

They are the intellectuals, the ideologists, the theologians, the moralists and those who through their teaching and writings – knowingly or unknowingly – justify our unjust social order. Most of them unawares have been contaminated by the wrong materialistic and selfish anti-values of our world.

8. How did The Power apparatus and The cultural apparatus come into existence within the Social reality? Whose values and rights does it protect?

The power apparatus and the cultural apparatus are part and parcel of any social set up . One tries to protect and the other to validate the” status quo” It is the higher –ups who created them to preserve the unjust “status quo”

In most cases, those who benefit from our unjust social structures and those who validate them are in good faith. However, they should be disabused and make amends for it.

9. Who are those outside the barbed wire?

The poor, the dispossessed, the exploited, the marginalized. the powerless, those who have no voice.

10. Who the strong, the clever and the pious from are outside invited to join the insiders?

They are the persons who in good faith have been manipulated by the ‘establishment’. Those who unawares cooperate with the powers- that- are in order to climb the social ladder. Note that we do not pass y judgment on anyone. We just describe a social reality.

11. Who are exploiters and exploited in our world?

In our unjust world, all of us are both exploiters and exploited! Even the upper classes are exploited and victimized. We have to become aware of the ‘exploitative’ nature of our social reality. We cannot close our eyes and submit to an unjust social order, chiefly if we are beneficiaries of it.

12. Who are those from inside who tried to come out of the fences to help the outsiders?

Social reformers, activists

13. Are they accepted and understood by those inside and those outside the fences?

Not at all! They have to suffer misunderstandings, criticisms and persecution from their own brothers inside the fences and also to put up with indifference, mistrust and lack of interest from those outside.