

THE BOXING MATCH

Social Irresponsibility

An event on Callousness, Irresponsibility and Lack of Social Awareness

Introductory Note: The central theme of this parable is to create an awareness of the fact that although our society is full of injustices, exploitation and social evils, no one is truly ready to owe responsibility for them.

Although we are part and parcel of an unjust system, we close our eyes to it and justify our apathy with hundred and one excuses and pretexts

WHO KILLED THE BOXER, PAT HUDSON ?

The Story

Some one in the crowd shouted out “Who killed the boxer Pat Hudson?”

The referee replied: “Not I, surely not! Do not point your finger at me. Of course, I could have stopped the fight at the eighth round. In that case, Pat might not have died.

But then, the public would have shouted and howled, and accused me of cheating them. It’s so sad he died; but you know, it wasn’t my fault. I did nothing to him.”

The angry and greedy crowd whose shouts had rocked the stadium said: “It’s a shame that Pat died! He was such a good man. All we wanted was to watch a good fight. We never wanted him to die; far from it. We didn’t kill him. No! No! Do not blame us!”

Hudson’s Manager said: “It’s very painful for me to speak of Pat’s death. It’s so sad to think of his wife and kids. I took it for granted that he was in good physical shape. If he wasn’t fit for the fight, he was big enough to let us know. It was his mistake. No! You cannot blame me for his death. I am innocent.”

The men at the betting booth said: “No. no.” We have nothing to do with his death. We did nothing against him. We had not even shouted or cheered. He was such a promising boxer! It’s not our fault.”

And the press reporter Not I! I am completely innocent of his death. I just was watching the game to report the fight in the morning papers. I was doing my job. Surely, Pat’s time was up!

Ad the boxer who knocked him down said: “Not I! I did not kill him! I am not a murderer. I am a respectable man. I am just a sportsman. It’s true that I struck him, but, of course, I did everything according to the rules of the game. I played a fair game! No one can blame me. Do not call me a “murderer” or “man slaughterer”. It was Pat’s luck, his destiny, his fate. It was the will of God.”

Again some one’s voice was heard saying: “Then, who killed the boxer Pat Hudson? Who? Who? Tell me!”

(An adaptation of a script of a Spanish Audiovisual script)

POINTS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. What’s the main thrust of this story? Explain.
2. Have you ever come across similar tragic, painful, unjust, shattering incidents,- *minor or major ones* - like the one in the boxer’s death story, taking place in your school days, college, place of work, family or in our society at large? Mention them.
3. How and why do such situations arise?
4. Who is answerable for the sufferings, the injustices and evils obtaining all around us? Yes, even within our families, institutions and neighborhood?
5. Who and what are their causes?
6. If we are part and parcel of our social set up we live in, why and how do we disclaim all responsibility for the evils and injustices of a society we are part thereof? Explain.
7. Can we, should we do something to stop or at least to lessen such social evils, sufferings and injustices? How? Where to start? Give Instances.
8. Have you ever felt guilty for not helping someone who was unjustly treated or suffering? Explain.
9. What could you have done for him? Why did you not do that?
10. Did you ever feel that you too were a victim of social prejudices and injustices? How? Give instances.
11. Have you ever felt let down by the members of your family, friends and neighbors? Give instances. What could they have done for you that they never did?
12. Are you really and honestly prepared to do for others what you expect others do for you?

COMMENT ON THE FOLLOWING SAYINGS

- Do to others what you would like others do to you
- It’s better to light a candle than to curse the darkens
- A drop of water is just a drop. A collection of them makes an ocean
- What you and I alone can’t do , together we can.
- Alone we fall, together we stand.
- Something may be too big for one to conquer, nothing too big for all to face.
- When the body is poisoned, every part thereof is poisoned.
- Is the body social is corrupted; every par of it is affected. – You and me too!
- A big journey starts with a small step

- Never say: “I can’t do anything”. Say: I can always do something.
- They can because they think can.
- Mighty oaks grow from tiny acorns.

Closing Group Prayer

You may close the exercise with a group prayer.

You may base your prayer on some of the small parables of Jesus” for instance

THE MUSTER SEED,

THE SALT,

THE LIGHT,

THE LEAVEN

Though small at the start, at the end, they influence the entire dough, the whole atmosphere, the large world. Small beginnings may transform the entire human life.

The Mustard seed.

And he said, whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it?

It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth:

But when it is sown, it grows up, and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it. (Mk 4/30-32)

The Yeast

Again he said, "To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed (in) with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch of dough was leavened."— (Mark 4:30–2)