



## THE HERMIT

A monk lived all alone in a cave, in the middle of the desert. He was a hermit. He was tormented by temptations, so one day he decided: «*I can't live here any longer; let me go into another region, into another cave, and I'm sure my temptations will come to an end!*».

So he took his bundle and his stick and at night he left... But when he turned back, he saw somebody following him, with a bundle, a stick, and a dress just like his own.

«Who are you?», the hermit asked.

«I am *you*», the other one answered.

«But why are you following me?», the hermit asked again.

«Because I am *you*. Wherever you go, I will be always with you...».

Then the monk started to think... and at last he understood! He went back to his old cave and he never thought again to change the place he lived in, but he tried with all his strength to change *himself*.

### ► LET'S KNOW OURSELVES ◀

There are people who always think that either the environment or the others are responsible for their insuccess. We must all learn to face ourselves and improve our own hearts.

from: GIULIO SANTULIANA, *Once upon a time... Tales*



Don Bosco Is Talking To You...

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## THE TWO SHOE~SELLERS

An English firm selling shoes sent two expert sellers to Africa, with the task of carrying out a marketing research: would a shoe factory in Africa be a good business?

After a six month research, one of the two experts, the more pessimistic one, sent his conclusions: «*A shoe factory in Africa would be a total failure. Nobody wears shoes over here!*».

But the other one, who was more optimistic, wrote: «*A shoe factory in Africa will be a wonderful business! Nobody has ever used shoes over here, but when people will realize how useful they are, they will all run to buy them*».

The firm trusted the second expert, and doubled his wages.

### ► OPTIMISM ◀

The first step for being winners in life is being trustful and optimistic.



## THE SULTAN AND THE CLOWN

One day the sultan of Bagdad ordered to call the most famous clown of the town. He watched his games, laughed at his gags, and at the end said to him: «You have amused me quite a lot, I want to give you a prize. Here is a golden ring for you. But there's a condition: if you meet somebody who is sillier than you, you must give it to him».

«I will, Your Majesty, I promise I'll observe your order», the clown answered.

Ten years later the clown returned to see the sultan, and he found him old and ill, lying on his bed...

«What happened, Your Majesty?», the clown asked.

«I'm leaving for a long journey – the sultan answered –. My journey will end among the clouds, in the house of Allah».

«Did you prepare your luggage?», the clown asked.

The sultan was amazed: «Which luggage? I don't understand...».

And the clown, quite serious: «Of course, I mean good actions and works of mercy you must present Allah with...».

«No – the sultan answered – I've nothing of the kind...».

«If so – the clown said – here's your ring, let me give it back to you, because no doubt you're sillier than I». (Arabian tale)

### ► THINK ABOUT IT... ◀

The time will come of your rendering of accounts.  
Are you preparing your luggage full of good actions?  
Think of it, while you're still in time!



## THE UGLY RAVEN

One day a raven went to see his friend the owl, because he wanted to ask his advice on a big problem. «Dear owl, my dearest friend, I've come to bid you goodbye. I want to go away».

The owl looked at him, and said: «Do you, really? But why, all of a sudden?».

«Because I'm too ugly – the raven answered –. All animals laugh at me, both for my color and for my voice».

But the owl, who was very wise, said: «Your decision is a nonsense. Do you think that in another place people won't laugh at you? Now listen, go back and think of all your qualities: you can fly, your sight is quite sharp, you can hunt... Don't take any notice of what the other animals say!».

The raven followed the owl's advice... he started to trust himself, greet those he met and smile... and the following year he was appointed the Head of all the animals in the wood.

### ► PERSONALITY ◀

Your look is not the most important thing. What really means are your personality and your heart.  
Don't let the critics of others deceive you.  
Work upon your qualities more than upon your look!