

Vladimir Nicolas'

The Old Man Who Fed the Doves



A Vladimir Nicolas story
Pictures by Juan Carlos González Agudo



The old man who fed the doves

“Old foolish man, rather than feed the doves, why don’t you eat the bread in restaurant?” cried one of the three youthful kids, while his classmates were laughing.

Without focusing on the youthful people laughing at him, the old man, a retired worker and widower, kept his silence. He did not mind the young persons disrespecting their elder in the new society, despite the fact that the elder had more life experience than the young and bad-mannered kids.





The old man did not say a word to defend his action of feeding the doves. He replied to the disrespectful kids by smiling. Then, he focused his concentration to the doves. He threw the breadcrumbs to the doves.

“Leave him alone!” said the second rude kid. “He’s a crazy man!”

“Let’s go play video games,” proposed the third bad kid.

“Yeah!” cried his two classmates.

Moving eagerly, the three rude kids left the old man alone. The retired man did not care. His attention was focused on a white dove lying on the ground. The bird seemed unable to get up on its two feet. Quickly, the retired worker walked towards the dove. He was worried it could be wounded. Immediately, he saw there was a shining rock in the dove’s beak. Removing the mysterious rock stuck between the beak and throat of the dove, the old man couldn’t believe what he found: the rock was a diamond. Once the diamond was removed from its beak, the dove took off and disappeared into the cloudy sky.

With the diamond in his dirty and cracked palms, tears dropped quietly from the old man’s eyes. He wept because that gift was too much for him, a lonely retired worker and widowed man. The old man thought about his life. He had worked throughout his lifetime, but he never got enough wages to buy the drugs that would have saved his wife and son from the flu.

Today, at death’s doorstep because of his age, life gave him a last gift: a diamond. With that precious rock, he could



have saved the lives of his wife and son sixteen years ago. For eight more days, the old man continued to feed the doves while the three boys laughed at him. During that time, the old man thought about to what to do with the diamond.

In the afternoon, he was shaken from his thoughts by a couple of loud lovers that were quarreling on the sidewalk. The man slapped his girlfriend in the face. The woman fell on the ground but nobody came to help the young girl. Disappointed both in the man's violent behavior against his girlfriend and the people's indifference, he decided to do something with the diamond to help society become better.



At first, the old man went to see an experienced jeweler who would find the right value of his beautiful diamond. Holding the diamond in his hands, the jeweler was afraid it was a fake. He changed his mind by checking the diamond and weighing it. It was a diamond that could be worth several thousand million American dollars. After discussing for several hours with the jeweler, the old man sold the diamond for about two hundred million American dollars.




Once done, the old man opened a bank account for the first time in his life. Then he donated to a benevolent organization whose main task was to offer shelter for homeless women and resolve the problems of family violence.

Then he met a lawyer to write his last will and testament. At last, he came back to his lonely favorite activity: feeding the doves.

Several years passed and carried the old man to the grave. Several days after his death, many public schools, public libraries, hospitals, Buddhist temples, Christian churches, Muslim mosques, orphanages, and refuge shelters for homeless persons in the country received a posthumous letter. They had inherited some money from the rich old man. Also, the villages in the countryside received a part of his fortune to build better homes and schools for peasants, because the old man had been a migrant worker with his wife. Due to a quirk of fate, the three ill-disciplined kids' school received several million of dollars from the old man who fed the doves.





His legacy helped those three impish kids turn into dedicated students because their school got better books and resources to give the passion for education to students. At last, the three malevolent kids who enjoyed laughing at the old man changed: they became clever, and they turned into responsible and respectful citizens.

The End



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