

Can We Be The Gift For Someone? by Jean-Jacques Trifault

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If we decide to visit a park and walk leisurely along its pathways, are we going there because we wish to see the plants, or are we going there to view ourselves?

Usually, if we go to a park, it is to see all the natural elements on display in that place. We want to see them because we already have a presumption they are beautiful and arranged in ways that will be pleasing to our senses. After awhile, as we observe people visiting the

park, one question might come to our minds: "Who would want to visit us, we who are named humans?"

Regardless the flowers and trees do not know the effect they have on those who come to look at them, just as we do not know the effect we create in others, one thing is certain: we walk in a park because we consider a park is a pleasant place to be. Indeed, if the plants were ugly, would we visit a park? Maybe we would go just one time in our life, to satisfy our curiosity of how ugly they could be!

So if we realize that we like to see something that is pleasant to behold, we could reflect on ourselves and ask, "Do we like to be seen or do we like to not be seen?" Surely if we want to be seen, we will carefully prepare ourselves for the eyes of those who will see us.

Since so far we do not have any difficulty to look at plants, it seems that they

are well prepared. Indeed, if all the elements of the park could speak, we might hear them say that they want to be seen. This means they must have thought about how to become beautiful creations and worked hard to transform themselves, so that we human beings would like to see them over and over. Their beauty produces such an attraction that some of us are not content to see them only on Sunday afternoons, but would like to see them every day of the week. And so we create our own gardens, full of different plants, and we will dig in the soil, pull out weeds and do everything connected to their wellbeing, because they are so pleasant to behold. Indeed, if we observe our emotions when we plan to visit a park or a garden, we can already sense we are going to feel satisfied when we arrive there.

If we dare to apply this concept to ourselves, we can say that if other people like

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to visit us, we can consider that we are pleasant to the eyes of those who look at us. And, based on this logic, it is understandable that if we are not pleasant to the eyes of the ones around us, then their reaction to us will be similar to our reac-

tions when we pass by the entrance of a park without stopping on our way and entering.

Surely the thing we should be most concerned about is how long those who live around us will continue to be excited to see us. And the reason we should be concerned about this is because we know that if a park was visited many times and suddenly people no longer come, something must have happened to this park. Maybe it became unkempt or shabby. But if the park

realizes nobody visits it because it forgot to take care of itself in a way that can be pleasant for its visitors, then surely, if the park could do something, it would try to renew its appearance so it could become beautiful again.

Likewise, if we who were many times visited by the people around us suddenly find out they are no longer enthusiastic about us but they have become tired of seeing our faces, this will not help us to feel good about ourselves, and we might realize

must have changed. Indeed, if this can happen to the ones who used to admire us, we need to be sure we ask the right question about this situation—what



CAN WE BE** THE GIFT FOR SOMEONE?

"When we want to live for others we feel happy to be alive. If we suddenly lose the desire to live for anyone, our strength to live will become weaker and weaker. Only when we choose to become gifts for others will we feel a desire to maintain and to grow our inner beauty," (Excerpt)

The insights offered in this volume are gathered from the author's life experiences and his constant search to gain God's viewpoint. His deeply compassionate guidance through many examples and analogies serves as an inspiration for anyone desiring to enrich his or her life's path and to discover God's heart.



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