

Article for English Corner Discussion

1. Article 1-3: Mather Teresa

by: Mother Teresa, 1910 -1997

Introduction: Mother Teresa was born in 1910. At the age of 12, she felt strongly the call of God (神召) that she had to be a missionary (宣教士) to spread the love of Christ. Since 1948, she started to work among the poorest of the poor in the slums (贫民区) of Calcutta, India. She received her Nobel Peace Prize (诺贝尔和平奖) in 1979. The following was one of her diaries:

The poor are very wonderful people. One evening we went out and we picked up four people from the street. And one of them was in a most terrible (可怕) condition (情况), and I told the sisters: You take care of the other three. I take care of this one who looked worse. So I did for her all that my love can do. I put her in bed, and there was such a beautiful smile on her face. She took hold (抓住) of my hand as she said just the words “thank you” and she died. I could not help but examine (察验) my conscience (良心) before her and I asked what would I say if I was in her place. And my answer was very simple. I would have tried to draw (吸引) a little attention (注意) to myself. I would have said I am hungry, that I am dying, I am cold, I am in pain, or something, but she gave me much more, she gave me her grateful love (感激的爱). And she died with a smile on her face. As did that man whom we picked up from the drain (下水道), half eaten with worms (虫), and we brought him to the home. “I have lived like an animal in the street, but I am going to die like an angel, loved and cared for.” And it was so wonderful to see the greatness of that man who could speak like that, who could die like that without blaming (责怪) anybody, without cursing (咒诅) anybody, without comparing (比较) anything. Like an angel, this is the greatness of our people. And that is why we believe what Jesus had said: I was hungry, I was naked, I was homeless, I was unwanted, unloved, uncared for, and yet you did it to me (Mathew 25:35 – 40).

I don't believe that we are so-called social workers. We may be doing social work in the eyes of people, but we are really contemplatives (僧人, 修女)

in the heart of the world. For we are touching the body of Christ twenty-four hours a day. And I think that in our family we don't need bombs and guns, in order to bring peace, just get together, love one another, and bring that peace, that joy, that strength of presence of each other in the home. And we will be able to overcome all the evil (邪恶) in the world.

And with this prize (诺贝尔奖) that I have received as a Prize of Peace (和平奖), I am going to try to make the home for many people who have no home. Because I believe that love begins at home, and if we can create a home for the poor, I believe love will multiply and will spread. And we will be able through this understanding love to bring peace and the gospel to the poor. The poor in our own family first, in our country and in then the world. To be able to do this, our Sisters, our lives have to be woven with prayer (不住的祷告). They have to be woven with Christ (宣讲基督) to be able to understand (了解), to be able to share (分享). Because to be woven with Christ is to be able to understand, to be able to share. Because today there is so much suffering (苦难). When I pick up a person from the street, hungry, I give him a plate of rice, a piece of bread, I have satisfied. I have removed that hunger. But a person who is shut out (被拒绝), who feels unwanted, unloved, terrified (害怕), the person who has been thrown out (被拒绝) from society (社会) that poverty is so full of hurt (伤害) and so unbearable (不能忍受). And so let us always meet each other with a smile (笑容), for the smile is the beginning of love, and once we begin to love each other naturally (自然的) we want to do something.

2. Discussions:

1. Who was Mother Teresa? When did she receive the Nobel Peace Prize?
2. What did she do for the poor?
3. What did she suggest that the first thing to do to show our love and care To each other?