

Healing the Wound

TRUST



There was a six-year-old boy who stuttered when he spoke, but he didn't know it. One day in school, his class teacher brought a tape recorder. The whole class was excited at the prospect of reading into it. One by one, they approached the microphone and nervously spoke a few words. When it was his turn, the boy had some difficulty and his lips tended to stick together. However, he felt that he had done a satisfactory job and returned confidently to his seat.

As the tape was played back, most students flushed with embarrassment as they heard their recorded voices for the first time. And then he heard his voice - a jumble of contorted sounds.

His classmates started to giggle, which quickly turned into nervous laughter. Then, like ocean waves, the peals of laughter slammed violently into his ears. He felt humiliated and very vulnerable.

When the children returned after lunch, he sat down miserably at his desk but noticed that all his classmates

avoided his eyes. But his closest friend came over to him and put a small bag of sweets on his desk. Mumbling "Thanks", he raised the lid of the desk to put the bag inside. It took him a moment to realise that it was filled with many other bags of sweets, fruits and even a couple of small toys. Each of his classmates had scavenged a treat for him during lunch as a peace offering.

It takes real courage to accept a fault and to offer an apology. It is not a sign of weakness, but of greatness. A genuine 'sorry' that springs from the heart puts a strained relationship on the road to repair. Without this there would be that constant pebble in the shoe that makes the going achingly uncomfortable. People who do not hesitate to say 'sorry' when they own up a mistake, and 'thanks' when they must, prove their goodness in small, ordinary but effective ways. The quicker we apply balm to the wounds we inflict on others, the faster the wounds heal. And this restores harmony and joy besides putting the relationship back on rails.

Search others for their virtues, thyself for vices.
– Anonymous