
THE STORY ACCORDING TO THE ACADEMIC

Calogero A. Miceli

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CHAPTER I

The Proclamation

1 This is the beginning of the good account of the man of the institution, who walked along the halls and taught those of us who were unaware of such things. ²Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of these tales, ³I have investigated their claims and have compiled for you, my most excellent reader, a perfected account of only those things which truly did take place. For many, wishing to spoil the reputation of the man out of jealousy and hatred have polluted the stories and his words with utterly shameless lies. ⁴With this, I am happy to report that the flower is blossomed and it can be adorned for I have cut the thorns from its stem. This is the testimony I give on his account.

The Parable of the Academic Seeds

⁵As he walked along the hallways he heard and saw a young man crying. He stopped and asked, "Why do you cry?" ⁶The youth wiped his tears and spoke, "I cry because I cannot succeed in this world. I write and I read and I think and I deduce and I create and nothing comes out of it. I have been to all my classes and I have met with all of my professors and still I cannot succeed." ⁷The man, looking at him, laughed. He said to him, "Do not be discouraged for all those who are now above you walked along the same road you tread. ⁸For the work of a scholar is like a sower; ⁹it is as if someone would scatter seed into the good soil. If one does not tend to the seed by watering it and caring for it, then nothing will grow and it will wither away. ¹⁰If one tends to it every hour and every minute and every second and expects fruit, surely I tell you that fruit will not come. For the fruit will be seen after long toil and hardship, after long periods of time. ¹¹The one who waters his seed and cares for his plant and is patient to wait not a few days, but until spring has passed into summer and the leaves begin to change their colors, truly that man will see his ripened fruit and he will rejoice because of it. ¹²Then the harvest will have come." ¹³The young

man was silent for he heard what had been spoken to him. He got up and smiled and he thanked the man for his wisdom proclaiming to everyone that he now had the truth for academic success.

The Lesson of Plagiarism

¹⁴As he continued to walk he saw a brother and sister who were angry and shouting. ¹⁵He asked them, “Which of you has copied the other?” And they were amazed saying, “How did you know that one copied the other?” ¹⁶Smiling he said to them, “It is not that two fig trees cannot grow side-by-side, but that these will never be blessed with the same fruit of the same size, of the same quality, of the same position, and of the same taste. For if such an occurrence took place it could be only through miracle, but looking at your work and that of your sibling I say there is no miracle here. ¹⁷One of you has breathed into the work of another so as to imitate it.” ¹⁸The brother and sister were silent [for they knew] one had plagiarized. He said to them, “Throw away both documents and cast them into the fire; for what is tainted can never be pure. ¹⁹It is better to have no fruit than to eat that fruit which has been spoiled and filled with worms and other creatures.” ²⁰Immediately, they tossed their papers away and were rejoiced because of it. ²¹He said to them before leaving, “Tell no one about this or you will surely be judged, but preach to others that you have seen me and that my wisdom was sound.” ²²As he walked away the brother and sister also parted ways from each other in order to commence anew their own work.

The Question about Fees

²³Soon after, he was approached by many scholars. They hated his teachings and wished to trick him so that he might stumble. ²⁴They (those most wise and elderly amongst them) asked him, “O Great Teacher, teach us the way to the truth so that we may be more like you and less like ourselves. ²⁵The schools continue to demand that we pay our wages and they demand much allowances. These are increasing with every year and with every day. Should we pay these, or not?” ²⁶The crowd listened attentively. He knew their cunningness and the evil in their hearts for he heard it from this. And he asked for their documents and the one beside him handed it to him. He took it and said, “What name do you see here?” ²⁷They responded, “The name of our institution.” ²⁸He said to them, “Then give to your institution the things which belong to your institution and to your education the things which belong to your education.” ²⁹At this they were amazed and silent.

Worldly Possessions

As he continued along the halls they asked one another, ³⁰“Who then is this, that he can claim such things?” ³¹One of them spoke up, “I have heard it said that he does not study in order to receive praise nor yearn for a seat on the high council. ³²He does not criticize others with his knowledge or demand to be given fine clothes and jewels. He does not ask for such things nor does he accept them. ³³Though he has earned that prestigious entitlement (which we all bear) he does not place it before his own name or sign with it.” ³⁴In amazement they asked, “Why would someone refuse such privileges?” He continued, “He refuses all of these possessions which he deems worldly and often speaks of these as distractions. ³⁵It is said that he seeks and speaks only the truth.” At this the crowd was stunned. ³⁶One by one they threw down the jewels they had been adorned with and walked away leaving their expensive sandals behind them.

The Man Caught in Breaking an Academic Regulation

³⁷A group of scholars came near him. As they approached, he noticed that one among them was not like the rest; ³⁸he was in tears and his eyes faced the ground. ³⁹This one was made to stand before them all and they said to him, “Teacher, this man was caught in the very act of breaking an academic regulation. ⁴⁰He has no academic integrity and must be punished for his offence. The academic code of proper conduct is clear that any that breaks its laws will have their records smeared and are subject to banishment. ⁴¹Now what do you say?” They said this to trick him, so that they might have some charge to bring up against him. ⁴²He sat down and on the blackboard beside him, began to write with his chalk. ⁴³When they kept on questioning him he got up and said to them, ⁴⁴“Let anyone among you who has never erred be the first to dismiss him.” One by one they went away. He was left alone with the one who was still in tears. ⁴⁵He said to him, “Do not do this again from now on.

Why he Studied to be a Scholar

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[...]

⁴⁶[And] they were angry and replied, “Then why have you studied to become a scholar? You wish to be [like] us and yet you [...] at every chance, demeaning our work [and existence]. ⁴⁷Why would you [study to

be a scholar] if this is what you are criticizing? How can you [criticize that which] you are?" He replied to them, ⁴⁸"I am [...] am. We are not [the same] for you choose to [...]. Nothing is further [...] this is like that [...]" [...] angry with him. For [...]

⁴⁹[...] evening had [...]

[...]

⁵⁰[...] They threw off [...] when [...]

Love for Opponents

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⁵¹[...] "But remember now what I say to you concerning these people. These are your opponents but they are also your colleagues. ⁵²Do not hate them for testing you and for commenting on you and for challenging your ideas and for ridiculing you. If anyone challenges your arguments, offer them others and for anyone who opposes your paper, give to them all that you have written (so that they may oppose them all). ⁵³Do not have hate in your heart for those challenging you because you also have challenged those who were before you." ⁵⁴He said this so that all can realize that anyone who is willing to challenge knowledge is free to do so and should always be commended because of it. All that is and has been written is open for challenge and everyone must surely embrace such challenges so that together they might come to knowledge. ⁵⁵Those who were with him were rejoiced and departed so that they might find their opponents and make those into allies.

The Quarrel with the Teacher

⁵⁶As he walked he heard noises and went closer. As he arrived he noticed a Teacher with several students. One of the students raised his hand and questioned the teaching (which was not sound) and at this the Teacher rebuked him. He became angry and said to the Teacher, ⁵⁷"Why do you rebuke the wisdom of this student?" The Teacher replied, "This is a non-initiate and he is not worthy of speaking or questioning that which is spoken by me. ⁵⁸Only those who have completed the steps and who have been initiated may converse. Do you not remember your own initiation, o wise one?" ⁵⁹At this he said, "Certainly I recall my rite of passage and it would seem that you have forgotten yours. ⁶⁰All of these students are worthy to receive your teaching and because of this they are also worthy of

questioning its validity. ⁶¹For how can one be certain that salt is salt if one has not tasted its saltiness? ⁶²Indeed, one who has passed the initiation is above the under-initiates but that one is not above knowledge. For knowledge is neither secret nor perfect. ⁶³For if it was secret what then would be its purpose? Who would know of such things if they were hidden?" But the Teacher's heart was hardened and he did not wish to listen to what was spoken. ⁶⁴He left the room throwing his books to the ground. The students were upset because the lesson had been cancelled but he said to them, "Continue to question and continue to challenge even though you have not been labeled as initiated ones. All those who are now initiates were human before this and even now are still human. ⁶⁵For this reason, they should not make themselves out to be more than what they are." One of the students asked, "Then what good is the process of initiation?" ⁶⁶At this he smiled and replied, "The one who can answer this is truly the wisest of all."

Foretells his Betrayal and Denial

⁶⁷Many were around listening to him. ⁶⁸Among these were the newly appointed scholars and several students. One of the students, his name was Jude Trapse, had been following him for quite some time and had been fond of his teachings. ⁶⁹Then he looked around and said to Jude, "You will betray me to the high council and you will deny my teachings as I have spoken them." ⁷⁰To this Jude replied, "Great educator, why do you say such things? Surely, I would never deny you, nor would I betray you to anyone. ⁷¹You are the one I admire most and the one with whom I am closest." He said to him, "This is what will take place and it has already happened."

Calogero A. Miceli is a student at Concordia completing his M.A. in Theological studies. This piece was inspired by the idea of the gospels taking place in a contemporary setting.