





Be Fruitful  
and  
Multiply

Expanding your Horizons:  
*The Path to Purpose*

Vol. I

P O I S E N

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# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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At life's twilight, the author reflects on his experiences, accepting Wordsworth's timeless wisdom that 'the child is the father of the man.' There is no such thing as retirement; instead, they remain devoted and bear Fruit.

His stories will expose readers' hearts to Christ's unending love. He has intertwined Christian values such as love, forgiveness, faithfulness, and kindness. The author also wove truth, righteousness, and the necessity for a repentant heart. He intended the engaging narratives in this book to do more than entertain; he wanted them to have a lasting impact.

The writer, like Jesus, uses simple words, stories, and actual objects to help people comprehend and feel connected. According to the author, we have companions in our journeys and believe that love can help us solve problems in life.

He believes multiple points of view are acceptable. Our two fingers are not the same. People see things in various ways. People, like frogs, have different viewpoints in different ponds and seas. They do not receive the entirety of God's wisdom. The author wishes to provide stories that make people joyful and help them understand one another.

He expects the readers to become more compassionate toward others. The stories remind readers of selfless love and urge them to perform more extraordinary acts of love in their own lives.



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## CHAPTER I:

# LOVE VS. FEAR

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*“The woods are lovely, dark, and deep.*

*But I have promises to keep*

*And miles to go before I sleep,*

*And miles to go before I sleep”.*

— Robert Frost

The trees formed an enigmatic and lovely expanse of blackness and depth in front of me. Despite wanting to uncover its secrets, I knew of my responsibilities and the long journey ahead.

### **Knowledge Puffs up While Love Builds up**

Past experiences have proven that individuals can only comprehend a tiny fraction of knowledge. Excited and eager to share my thoughts and ideas, I readily agreed when my church asked me to speak. St. John Chrysostom earned the name “Man of the Golden Tongue” because of his exceptional speaking skills and persuasive abilities. People know Bishop Mar Chrysostom of the Mar Thoma Church for being intelligent and funny. In Kerala, India, people from all walks of life listened to him and accepted his words. He met the professor, Fr. Dr. George, as he

was walking. Chrysostom asked Father George what he was doing. Fr. George said he had been teaching theology (God's Science) at the seminary.

The Orthodox Church invited Chrysostom to deliver a talk. Mar Chrysostom walked up to the stage to provide the principal speech, and George and Joshua, well-known priests in their traditions, were also present. The speaker expressed his knowledge and opinions, capturing the attention of everyone present. Mar Chrysostom saw Father George, and he said, our Fr. George is a famous scribe, known far and wide for his knowledge of theology! God grabs the mic and poses any question He desires to Father George. Fr. George believed all the events happening were a direct assault against him. Boy, did Father George feel the heat! He scratched his head and then figured out why it made sense. Chrysostom, the greatest prophet of India, was not like most others. Oh! No! He was like a divine torch that could walk and talk. His extraordinary wisdom lit up the churches in India and abroad.

Fr. George thought there were eight parts to a firework. Screams and clouds of smoke marked the first part. The kids' eyes popped open in wonder. The performance exceeded their expectations in terms of its beauty. The following seven steps were a beautiful show of fireworks—a mesmerizing show of lights and patterns. The audience oohed and hollered at the first part; the beauty of the other parts was unknown to them.

A collective of writers collaborated extensively to create religious books that eventually emerged as significant historical works. Time and change have happened; nations have changed, and

history has changed how people live. The Veda Sastra remains a great work of literature. Its name comes from the fact that it has many points of view and styles of writing. People have always wondered if God or another higher force ran the universe. No one has ever seen God, though everyone wants to. Fr. Dr. George stopped saying Deva sastra and started saying Veda sastra, which means written book, the Bible. The first guy was a kid; only God knows what's happening.

Mar Chrysostom also talks about a man who takes a trip with \$100. Someone might attempt to seize it from the rear. When a third person comes to the scene, they ask what's happening and try to figure out how to fix the problem. Because he lacks a sixth sense, we restrict him to only three activities. The result is that whoever wins the fight gets the money, the owner, or they come to a fair compromise and split it 50/50. One-third is a perfect chance to win for the owner. Only one person tells the truth if the number goes up to 100.

### **The Child is the Father of Man. William Wordsworth**

I thought of the older people who invited me to the message. My mom always called me her son, even though I retired. It's a charming reminder of the unbreakable bond between a mother and her child, even as life takes unexpected turns. I sometimes meet up with seniors when they meet. Even though I was nearing 60, I could still flex my neck. After a few talks, I found it rigid. I inquired. They remained silent and smiled. A friend mentioned they wished to share with me their shoulder pain, low blood pressure, high sugar, heart block, etc. They invited me to win my favor and make me like them, not because they loved me.

They looked clever, though not good.

I think of my school, the one in my village. No one can repurchase our childhood and youth, regardless of their wealth. My teacher explained the distinction between the English words ‘childish’ and ‘childlike.’ It was a memorable realization. Teachers assume students will listen to them. Skilled speakers and brave pirates share a common trait: a strong passion for something they value. They want to showcase their top grades or language skills to people who do not have the same level. Her eyes became smaller, and her voice grew louder as she spoke. “You need to understand my point.

See your grandfather. A child between the ages of one and two behaves better than older individuals”. I couldn’t understand her explanations because of my scattered thoughts. Solomon advises us to teach the young to prevent forgetfulness in old age. I haven’t read or heard, ‘Teach an elder the right way to go, and when he becomes a child, he won’t leave it.’ Is there a retirement age, or should we bear good fruit (Love) until we die?

## CHAPTER 2:

# FRUITFUL VS. SUCCESSFUL/LOVE VS. FEAR

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*“Nothing is sweeter than love, nothing more courageous, nothing higher, nothing wider, nothing more pleasant, nothing fuller nor better in heaven and earth; because love is born of God, and cannot rest but in God, above all created things.”*

— **Thomas à Kempis**

**W**hat we mean by fruitful in simple English is that if a good doctor prays that no one gets sick and God answers his prayer, the doctor loses his job and income, but he still prays and experiences joy. Here, he’s giving up on himself because he loves someone. Mar Chrysostom asks us to think about someone who sells coffins as another example and pray he has no money to pay for his children’s fees and at least one coffin to be sold. Please don’t think that we want to downplay his work. Someone has to die if God answers his prayer. It means he doesn’t care if someone dies because he needs to make money to stay alive. His happiness comes from how much he loves himself. We call it the happiness of the flesh or selfish love.

## **Yudhishthira Learns Charity from a Golden Squirrel**

Yudhishthira was the eldest of the Pandavas, the five who finally won the battle. Both sides lost many people in the Battle of Kurukshetra, so the side that won gave gifts of food and gold to compensate for their losses. He fed 10,000 people, which made him feel good about himself. After they had eaten and cleaned up, Lord Krishna and Yudhishthira saw something strange. A squirrel with a shiny back played in the water, where people washed their hands. Every roll showed its own back. Lord Krishna told him how and why he was acting. The squirrel told Krishna that a poor Priest, his wife, and their son lived nearby. They had little money; they ate what he earned from his priesthood. The land went hungry. Everyone felt hurt, but the Priest was the most affected. He got some barley flour one day, and his family cooked, served, and split it.

As they were preparing to dine, a knock echoed at the door.

They saw a hungry man and called him in. They divided the food into four portions and gave him one. The poor man still had to eat. He got his share of the father. Still hungry, the mother added her own, and the little boy gave his share, too. The poor man washed his hands and blessed them after he finished eating. When the water hit the ground, it turned gold. People know your kindness, which is why I came to see you. I won't get my back in gold. You give because you have enough money; the poor Priest gave everything they had. A 70-year-old widow named Kamamma went to an NGO from Mysuru to give out food. The helpers thought she wanted something to eat. In a tough time, she shocked them by giving them \$60 from her R\$70 pension.

Jesus always tells the same story, whether it's about the widow of Sarepta or the woman who only gave two cents.

## **The Widow and Two Dice**

Here's a humorous interpretation of the parable of the widow's offering, focusing on Jesus' criticism of the ostentatious display of wealth by the rich. Jesus walked through a bustling marketplace. He couldn't help but notice the grand display of wealth and opulence around him. The wealthy merchants were strutting around in their fancy robes, adorned with expensive jewelry, and showing their extravagant giving. Jesus, known for his wit and wisdom, taught a lesson about true generosity. He found a spot near the temple where people were making their offerings. He noticed a poor widow standing in line when he observed the crowd. The widow, able to make ends meet, had two tiny coins to offer. Jesus noticed her sincere heart and willingness to give despite her meager means. He knew this was a perfect opportunity to make a point. He said, listen, everyone! There was a wealthy man. He loved to show off his wealth, parading through town with his servants and flashing his gold and silver wherever he went. Jesus continued, and this rich man made a grand offering at the temple. He called for his entourage and made a big production out of it. He approached the offering box, pulled out a sack filled with gold coins, and dropped it with a loud clatter. The people gasped and applauded, impressed by his lavish display. You know, Jesus paused, his eyes twinkling. Right at that moment, a poor widow approached the box. She didn't have servants or a fancy robe, and her pockets were empty. She took out her two small coins worth nothing and dropped them into the box. The crowd grew quiet, waiting for Jesus' following

words. Jesus continued; his voice filled with excitement. Heaven itself erupted with applause! The angels cheered, and God smiled down upon her. My friends, it's not the size of the offering that matters but the size of the heart behind it. With her two small coins, that widow gave more than all the riches in the world because she gave out of love and sacrifice. True generosity is not about the outward show or the amount given but the sincerity and sacrificial spirit with which we offer it.

I bow my head to such people and dedicate the following poem, written by an unknown Confederate soldier. While we may assume that our prayers have gone unheard by God, He may have answered them in the most beneficial way for our well-being.

### **Unknown Confederate Soldier's Poem**

*"I asked for strength that I might achieve;  
I was made weak so that I might learn humbly to obey.*

*I asked for health so that I might do greater things.  
I was given an infirmity so that I might do better things.*

*I asked for riches so that I might be happy.  
I was given poverty so that I might be wise.*

*I asked for power so that I might have the praise of men.  
I was given weakness so that I might feel the need for God.*

*I asked for everything so that I might enjoy life.  
I was given life so that I might enjoy all things.*



*I got nothing that I had asked for.  
But everything that I had hoped for.*

*Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.*

*I am, among all men, the most richly blessed”.*

## THE FIRST BLESSING AND COMMANDMENT

### *Unfaithful (Dis-obedient) Adam and Eve*

The first commandment in the Holy Book, as seen on its first page, Gen 1-18, is a blessing and a command to Be Fruitful and Multiply. Multiply once you are fruitful.

#### *The Second Commandment*

Genesis 2:16-17:

*“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’”*

God allowed them to eat all food except the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge.

I want to look at Genesis from two perspectives. (1) Gen.2:25: before they ate from the tree and (2) Genesis 3–7 after they ate from the tree (after their disobedience). Genesis 2:25 says that Adam and Eve were both naked and had no shame about it. Their lack of fear and innocence is reminiscent of a child. Babies aren’t afraid to sit on their moms’ laps.! Here is the next part of the story, which includes Genesis 3:1: The Garden of Eden where innocence and

wonder ruled, a mischievous snake, let's call it Silas, slithered through the green meadows. Silas, the serpent, remained the most cunning animal of all God's creation. Adam and Eve had fun one sunny day when Silas came across their way. He walked towards them with a sly smile and a twinkle in his eyes. His scales sparkled in the sunshine. Cunning Silas said, Hello, Adam and Eve! Have you ever met someone as intelligent and sneaky as I am? The Lord God gave me a charm and talent that are all mine.

Adam and Eve looked at each other curiously, amazed by Silas's trust, and Eve, always curious, asked Silas what made him so sneaky and clever. Tell us more! Silas's voice was mysterious as he answered, Ah, my friends, I am knowledgeable in ways that few other animals can match. The world has something interesting to offer, and I've seen it. Did God tell you not to eat from any tree in this beautiful garden? Adam and Eve were interested, so they listened. Silas continued, You see, my dear friends, 'God knows that if you eat from the tree in the middle of the garden, your eyes will be opened, and you will become like God.' Eve's eyes widened as she imagined the possibilities. Silas's words piqued her interest and made her want to test the limits that God had set. Adam had a thought that caused him to wonder. Silas moved on, leaving Adam and Eve to think about what he had said. They lost their childlike innocence as thoughts of knowledge and power danced in their heads. The worry-free couple approached the forbidden tree.; picked a fruit from the tree. Her heart was beating fast because she was both excited and worried. Adam couldn't help himself and also took a bite. Their eyes opened, and their innocence was gone. The childlike joy in the Eden Garden faded!