

One Act, Thousand Inspired

(Original)

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"A little goes a long way." I have always believed in that saying since I was in my elementary years. When it gets rough and the end seems so far away, this quote had helped me think that I could conquer anything one small step at a time. I definitely believe, this also applies to kindness; that a small good deed could not just possibly change someone's life forever but also influence the others.

When I was in third grade, I used to always read these Chinese fables on an online children's website that helped with reading and comprehension, and one in particular had stayed in my memory throughout the years. It was called, One Rice Thousand Gold. The story was about a boy named Han-Shin whose family was so poor that they didn't have anything to eat. That's why, everyday Han-Shin would go to the river to fish. One day, an old woman came by to wash her clothes and spotted Han-Shin. She noticed how skinny and hungry Han-Shin looked and gave him a bowl of rice every day. He promised the old woman that someday he would find a way to repay her. Han-Shin grew up to become a kind and helpful person, and soon after became king. But still, he never forgot his promise. He searched far and wide for the old woman and when he finally found her, he presented her a thousand pieces of gold as payment. But, the old woman said that he already repaid her all those years by growing up to be kind and compassionate.

It felt good every time, just reading it over and over. It always amazed me how good the woman's heart was. It instilled in me a warm, fuzzy feeling. She helped and never expected anything in return. For me, that was kindness in the purest form. She influenced and inspired Han-Shin to become someone who would help people too. A small deed doesn't just affect a person's being; it influences the heart, the mind, the morals, and even future decisions. That's what I learned from my days of reading it. And since then, I've always taught myself to be good to those who I meet too, despite the differences and circumstances.

I believe that kindness is interconnected and is a universal language that has the ability to connect society together to the same path. With example and inspiration, kindness plays a big role in influencing people. To provide a little push, a sudden epiphany, or a wake of the moral compass and feelings to everyone. Kindness is a choice that everyone should willingly choose. Be that, and the world is already turning better.

Helping someone, or just simply smiling or being polite and showing respect, those are kindness already. You will realize that the feeling of helping and the satisfaction of being able to lift someone's spirits will always be more rewarding than getting something in return.

Life has always been tough, filled with continuous judgment and criticism of people. But, if kindness was shown to all despite gender, race, sexuality, and social class, the world would be able to conquer anything and there would be unity. We would all be connected because of kindness and understand each other, and walk towards the same goal: peace and harmony.