

Chopsticks

This story comes from Korea:

There was a wealthy farmer who made his money by charging high prices and paying low wages. He and his family fed well and he considered himself hugely successful and important. So when he died he wasn't surprised when a guardian angel brought him before a huge table piled high with the choicest foods and delicacies. But all around him people were starving. Amazed, he asked them why they did not eat their fill.

"This is Hell," one of them explained. "Everyone who comes here is given a pair of chopsticks four feet long and is required to hold them at the end to eat. But you just can't eat with chopsticks four feet long. Look! You miss your mouth every time. See?"

Appalled that he had been condemned to such a place, the farmer pleaded with the angel to grant him a sight of Heaven before the gates of Hell closed on him forever. The angel agreed and, in the blink of an eye, the farmer found himself in Heaven. To his surprise, he saw the same table laden with the same food but here the people were happy and well fed.

"Shorter chopsticks, I supposed," said the farmer. "Oh no," said the angel, "they have the same chopsticks, of the same length, and they must hold them at the end, just as they do in Hell. But here people know that if you feed your neighbour, your neighbour will feed you also."

Making the Connection

Think of the difference fair trade brings, the dignity of wages for work that is valued. Pride in the history of learning to grow, to carve, to stitch: that sense of purpose.

Think of the power of a coffee bean, the taste of satisfaction. Crops grown, enjoyed by others, appreciated, giving the pleasure of making plans.

Think of the fingers that made that stitch, weaving us together, thread to thread, touch upon touch, smile meeting smile. Imagine the dream and feel it taking shape.

Think of connecting hope with reality, one world with another, lives and hearts and voices in a joyful celebration. Rejoice in the difference fair trade brings.

Fiona Ritchie Walker



Traidcraft

Fighting poverty through trade

*Traidcraft Stall
Saturday Morning
in the Church
Rooms 10.15 - 12.15
Details from
Margaret Elves
on 8460 0829*

Everything has beauty but not everyone sees it.