



The Prodigal Civilisation

There was a man who had two sons

There was a God who, over thousands and millions of years, made a great creation, with a whole of host of creatures upon an earth. And there came a time when one of those creatures came to understand themselves to be special in the eyes of God.

And the younger of them said to his father, Father give me my share of the inheritance that is due to me. And he divided his living between them.

And the humans said to God give us our inheritance, and they plundered the earth with mines and drills and rigs, sucking out the black treasure, consuming it in their machines and spewing the gas into the sky..

Not many days later the younger son gathered all that he had and went on a journey to a far country, and there he squandered his inheritance in loose living

A great economic system arose fuelled by deep level passions, based on conspicuous consumption and using the black treasure. The people travelled everywhere and nowhere. Forests were destroyed. It was party time. The air was filled with (pause) laughter. But the clouds were gathering.

And when it had all gone, a great famine arose in the land and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. And he would gladly have ate from pigs trough, but no one gave him anything.

It was the climate you see. They hadn't thought of that. And once they had, it was too late. The animals and plants began just to disappear. The desert spread. The wells grew deeper. Water. (pause) Anxious people. (pause) Angry people. (pause) Violent people. The rich built castles. The poor made battering rams.

And then he realised, he said, Why even my father's hired servants have bread enough to spare but I perish here with hunger. I will arise and go to my Father and say,
Father I have done wrong against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son, treat me as one of your hired servants.

And a few began to dream of a home, they saw a vision of God surrounded by the creatures of the earth, they dreamt of living at peace with God and the creation and they set out to make that real.

And he arose and set out for his father. And when he was far off his father saw him and had compassion and ran and embraced him.

And I will leave you to fill in the rest of the story.



Important notes for those who would like to use
The Prodigal Civilisation

Agora is keen for this story to be told as widely as possible.

We therefore give permission for individual churches and groups to use it freely providing only that:

1. It is 'told'. This means that it is memorised and performed by one (or two) people to the whole group. It is not hard to learn and is best done relatively 'dead pan', so demands little acting ability. One person crosses repeatedly from one side of the 'stage' to the other to indicate the different parallel stories, or two people stand side by side taking their parts alternately. We do not authorise it to be read.
2. The text should not be deliberately altered.
3. The source of the story is acknowledged in some way at the time of the telling, perhaps in a weekly bulletin sheet, or from the front, using words like 'We are grateful to Agora for permission to use the story of 'The Prodigal Civilisation'. You may also like to point to Luke 15 vs 11-20 for the biblical element.

We would also be keen for other recognised corporate bodies such as aid agencies to use this resource and invite them to apply to Agora for a one-off licence to use it throughout their organisation.

Agora.
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