

Less is More

There are those that must over-achieve
Ever grasping for more than they need.
Thinking that "things" will make them whole
Success for them becomes their soul.

Crushed by the weight of all they take,
Mindless of those left in their wake.
Relentless and ruthless, they win at all cost
Never realizing their real soul is lost.

Lacking the grace of God went I
Reckless with time I let it slip by
Wondering why there was never enough
Always complaining that life was so tough.

The weathered old man I happened to meet
Creased with dirt worn shoes on his feet
Sat in the park, resting awhile.
Of "things" he had none but his face had a smile.

Incensed that this man, who had obviously lost,
Was happier than I, who had won at all cost
I laid down a challenge, "What, are you mad?
Thoroughly beaten yet sitting there glad?"

He answered me calmly and without guile
His words were framed by a peaceful smile,
"To you I am beaten but what have I lost?
What did you win that's worth your soul's cost?"

"Today I awoke to a crystalline sunrise
And another day clean, lived without lies.
The people I met brought a smile to my face.
I grew closer to God and was filled with his Grace."

"Each day I'm humbled by God's many gifts
A few crumbs to eat, a child's blown kiss,
The smell of the grass freshly mowed in this park,
The friends that I have, the love in my heart."

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"I'm no saint but I hear that they claimed
The less they had the nearer they came
To understanding their God and finding true peace.
You win not with the most but with the least."

"So maybe now you can understand why
I'm happy to sit here while the world goes by.
When those all around me keep trying to win
It's hard for me not to just watch and grin."

"I've found my peace, my strength and hope
How to face pain and suffering yet cope
By accepting from God just what I need
And helping others see past their greed."

"All I can do is to plant a small seed
And hope that it grows in your time of need
So that you may one day have also a smile
And no longer live your life in denial."

I looked at this man knowing not what to say
Wishing that I could follow his way.
It would be hard for me to stop trying to win
But at least he gave me a place to begin.

- Brian S.
*"Value sobriety and
your life will be
priceless".*