**COLUMN/CURSIEFJE:**

**The multi-cultural kid, the autist and the christian one. “ The Youth of Today”**

Well. Anybody remembers those guys ? Sparks, Brights and Ali ? Now. Well they were a breed apart…

Sparks had met Brights at the Protestant Service, and Ali had met Brights at his job as a seasonal worker, at the biological farm. Sparks had had an academic education, and at the same time he was quite a talented musician. Brights was the most social one… and a dedicated christian in heart and bones. A stoïst. Ali looked up at Brights and Sparks, ‘cause he thought they were clever dudes who had a way with things. He dreamt of becoming like them, ‘cause he admired their wisdom and persistance…

Ali came from a foreign family who probably had fled from the war in Iraque. And… he had autism. Sparks was the oldest fellow who was quite a burgundian kid: He needed at least one beer a night, although during the day he worked a lot. And I mean a lot.

They really had good conversations with eachother. Sparks had gotten to know Ali when he participated to a course on the guitar by Sparks. But their taste on music differed too much, so Ali quit class. Brights regularly came to cook dinner at Sparkses. He had had an education for becoming a bakerman.

Sparks and Brights talked a lot about the Bible, and Sparks liked the way Brights thought about things. He thought that Brights was clever and rational and had a christianly-based morale to him. Brights was originally Dutch, and Sparks had a huge admiration for the Dutch.

He’d always dreamt of having a Dutch person as his best friend, because, in his youth, he had always played around and performed jokes with the son of the Dutch reverend, who lived in his neighbourhood…

Brights also handled a fantastic labour spirit, although he was in sheltered living. He lived together with other youngsters, but had to follow many rules.

The three of them worked at the biological farm. The farm functioned as a labour care center for ex-psychiatric patients, but not all of them were. The interest in gardening and cooking drove them three to perform labour.

And it might seem silly, but Ali, despite having autism, was also really clever and eager to learn and get dedicated.

Their friendship was unique. They proliferated a unique sense of peace and easiness. They had laughs, were eager to please, easy-going and always tried to be neat. Although Ali sometimes had a hard time with being neat, he listened to his older friends with a wide-open mouth.

When you’re willing to express your admiration for other good kids, it’s a good thing, no ? When you’re a humble and neat kid trying to learn, study or work at your best capacities, people will appreciate you. Positive people anyway.

There’s always a way. And God’s ways are inscrutable. A friendship is always give a little and take a little. But Jesus likes givers the most somewhere in his heart.

Multiculturality can get rough sometimes, but there is always hope in the disaster area. Look up at the flowers that grow in the desert.

They don’t need much sun to grow, just a whimsy now and then will do.

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