

PS3545

I 46 57

1912

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 015 988 748 0



# Sunlight or Candlelight

*By*

HELEN L. WILLCOX



Missionary Education Movement of the  
United States and Canada

156 Fifth Avenue

New York

COPYRIGHT, 1912, BY  
MISSIONARY EDUCATION MOVEMENT OF THE  
UNITED STATES AND CANADA

IMPORTANT

Price, \$.25 each, postpaid. The purchase of the five copies of *Sunlight or Candlelight* necessary for its production conveys the right to present it for purposes of religious education. In consideration of this permission, leaders are asked to pledge themselves to follow as far as possible those methods which will conserve its educational and spiritual values. Orders for copies, requests for further information, and written permits may be secured from the denominational Mission Boards or the Missionary Education Movement, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York.

© Cl. D 30947

201

## EDITOR'S NOTE

The Missionary Education Movement recognizes the value of the dramatic element in religious education, and undertakes to coöperate with those desiring to secure full benefits from its use.

Those interested in this form of religious education should seek to acquaint themselves with those principles which scientifically relate the use of the dramatic instinct to other educational processes. Unless the work of preparation and presentation be regulated in this way, the method will not only fail to yield satisfactory results, but much harm may be done.

Only those missionary plays will be published by the Missionary Education Movement which are especially calculated to serve the purposes of religious education.

Further information may be secured from the denominational Mission Boards or the Missionary Education Movement, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York.

## CHARACTERS

MRS. RICHARD GROTON, wife of an American Consul to Japan.  
MISS EVALYN TOWER, an American heiress, and niece of Mrs. Groton.  
HOSHI, a villager.  
MURA, wife of Hoshi.  
MITO, a student.

## PLACE

A small village in the interior of Japan. The house of Hoshi San. There should be no chairs, and only one picture.

## COSTUMES

### MRS. GROTON

An American traveling dress, of any color and style preferred.

### MISS TOWER

Traveling dress, but lighter than Mrs. Groton's.

### HOSHI

A Japanese kimono.

### MITO

A Japanese kimono.

### MURA

Kimono with long sleeves, and obi; hair done in pompadour.

## ACCESSORIES

Small table about six inches high. Tea-tray, of lacquered wood.  
Five teacups.  
Teapot.  
Plate of rice-cakes.  
Traveling bag.

## SUNLIGHT OR CANDLELIGHT

(Present, Hoshi and Mura, his wife.)

HOSHI

The whole village has gone mad! Have I not been in America? Don't I know what they believe there?

MURA

But they say America is a large place. These women may have come from a different part—that you did not see.

HOSHI

America is *not* a large place! Do you not know that distance is no more measured by the length of a man's step! What happens in San Francisco at the rising of the sun it is known in New York at noon! America is a *small* place!

MURA

Well then, what *is* the religion of America?

HOSHI

Oh, it is much as it is here. The poorer people go to the temples early in the morning with money for the priests and pray to their gods, since they hope for a change in their fortunes. The wealthy go to the temple once a week, because it is the fashion, but they are not afraid of their gods, and they do not trouble about doing anything to please them.

MURA

The American women say they have only one God.

HOSHI

Whether they have one or many I tell you they do not fear him, and so it doesn't matter.

MURA

(*Slowly.*)

Perhaps not—but they say they *love* him.

HOSHI

(*Ironically.*)

Did you ever hear of a god that anybody loved?

MURA

No——never before.

HOSHI

Then why will you waste your time listening to these mad women? How many times must I tell you that I *know*? It was not among the poor and ignorant that I spent my time while I was in America. I worked in a great house. It is not respectful of you to believe the words of strangers, when I tell you they are not true.

MURA

Forgive me! I do not doubt your wisdom. But, if these women did not learn of this in America, they must have learned it somewhere else, and wherever it is that people believe in Jesus—and love God as their Father—it must be a beautiful land. I should like to live there.

HOSHI

*(Losing patience.)*

Oh, those idle, meddlesome women have bewitched you all! I wish the American Consul would keep his family at home—or at least not send them *here* for a vacation!

MURA

If you would only come and hear them once!

HOSHI

I will hear them, *once*—when Mito San comes!

MURA

*(Surprised.)*

Who?

HOSHI

*(With an air of repressed triumph.)*

You may as well know that I have not been idle. I have taken measures to prevent the town from going quite insane. My friend, Mito San, has been studying in the American schools. He has just come home, and when I confront these chatterers with a *scholar*, they will doubtless have nothing more to say.

MURA

He is coming *here*?

HOSHI

I expect him at any moment. Why don't you invite your American friends to meet him?

MURA

*(Eagerly.)*

Would you let me bring them here?

HOSHI

If you can get them to come, I shall be delighted. I advise you not to tell them about Mito San, however, or they may be afraid to come.

MURA

I will bring them. *(She goes to the door, then turns back.)* Your friend is coming, now! *(She goes out, and Hoshi goes eagerly to the door.)*

HOSHI

*(At the door.)*

Welcome home, Mito San. It was good of you to honor my humble appeal for help so soon!

MITO

*(Smiling.)*

I could not well refuse such a call as that. And, besides, I am glad to refresh myself by a sight of your honorable countenance.

HOSHI

You have had a long sojourn in America.

MITO

But not long enough to forget my friends. I have come home to stay.

HOSHI

That is good news! And you have been studying all this time.

MITO

Yes, but now I hope to teach.

HOSHI

I thought you would want to, and I have some teaching for you to do, right here and now, to begin with.

MITO

I am curious! Who are these women you mention in your letter?

HOSHI

One is the wife of an American Consul, Mrs. Richard Groton—and the other is her niece. I think they have come from some backwoods part of America where an ancient superstition is still held, and they are teaching it to our women here—so successfully that it is impossible to reason with them any longer!

MITO

*(With interest.)*

What is it they are telling them? Perhaps I may know something of it.

HOSHI

Oh, yes! I am sure you will be able to show them up. It is a doctrine I never heard of while I was in America, but then—I was not a student.

MITO

*(Smiling.)*

If students tried to learn something about all the queer doctrines taught in America, they would have little time left in which to acquire *facts*. Is it New Thought—or Fletcherism?

HOSHI

*(Doubtfully.)*

I don't think so. I will tell you as well as I can. I haven't heard them myself, but my wife says they teach that there is one great God, who made heaven and earth and all the races of men, and that his Son, Jesus Christ, came down on the earth once, a great many years ago, and lived and died as a man—and while he was alive he taught people that God was their Father—that he loved them and cared for them every moment of their lives—and that if they would only trust in him—Jesus—and try to follow his teachings, they would be safe and happy, and would live forever.

*(Hoshi has become so absorbed in telling the story that he has almost forgotten Mito. The words he is speaking seem to be impressing him, in spite of himself.)*

MITO

*(Gently but solemnly.)*

My friend! Did you not know that this is true?

HOSHI

*(Amazed.)*

True? True! How do you know?

MITO

I have been studying about it for the last three years. I have come home to tell it to my people, here.

HOSHI

*(Almost indignant.)*

But I tell you I never heard of it!

MITO

How long were you in America?

HOSHI

A year.

MITO

A whole year in a Christian country, and never to have heard of Christ!

HOSHI

But,—I can't understand it. Are you sure?

MITO

*(Slowly.)*

My friend—what were you thinking as you told me of the teaching just now?

HOSHI

I was thinking—that it was the best story I had ever heard. Did you say—do you really mean it is *true*?

MITO

I do mean it, and I will tell you more. I am so glad you sent for me! May I meet these American women?

HOSHI

They are coming presently. My wife has gone to bring them.

MITO

What kind of people were you living with in America?

HOSHI

Rich—very rich! and kind. I had good pay, and presents on their feast-days. They could not have known of this.

MITO

*(Sadly.)*They may not have *cared*.

HOSHI

But they would have told me, surely, if they knew. I can't understand: I can't quite believe it, yet.

MITO

*(Drawing a small Testament from his dress.)*

This will help you to believe—and to understand. It is the story of the Good News—how Jesus told it, and how his followers told it after him.

HOSHI

*(In an awed tone.)*

Did he live in America—this Christ?

MITO

No—in Syria—many, many miles from America. But when he left his friends he told them to go “into all the world” and tell the Good News to every nation.

HOSHI

And some went to America! Why did no one come here?

MITO

They did come long ago, Hoshi San, in the old days, and we turned them out.

HOSHI

But now?

MITO

Now there are many teachers here, and Christianity is even recognized by the state, along with Buddhism and Shintoism, as one of the religions of Japan.

HOSHI

Really! Well, we do not always hear of what goes on at court. But I should think every one in America would know. It could not take very long to spread the news there—with all their telegraphs and telephones, and express trains, and newspapers.

MITO

It takes more than words. People have to *see* the Christ-life—a sort of reflection of it, in his followers, before they can understand.

HOSHI

*(Rising suddenly.)*

I hear the women coming. Will you not come to your room and refresh yourself? My eagerness about this matter has made me inhospitable.

MITO

*(Smiling.)*

I, too, was eager.

HOSHI

*(Picking up Mito's bag and leading the way to the door of the next room, then standing aside for Mito to pass in.)*

You must stay with me as long as you can.

MITO

I will indeed. I am glad to begin my work here.

*(Both go out. The two American women and the wife come in from the opposite side.)*

MURA

*(Bowing.)*

The honorable ladies are welcome! Be seated, if you please.

MRS. GROTON

Thank you. We are so glad to come and see your pretty little home.

MISS TOWER

Yes, indeed: so charming!

MURA

It is not worthy, but it rejoices at your presence. Will you excuse me while I make the tea?

*(Mrs. Groton and Miss Tower bow, also Mura, and she goes out.)*

EVALYN

Oh! Aunt Grace! We never said it was honorable!

MRS. GROTON

*(Smiling.)*

They pardon an occasional variation—from foreigners.

EVALYN

It seems natural enough to call every one's house honorable over here. There is such a dignity about these empty, spotless rooms.

MRS. GROTON

*(Looking at her rather curiously and fondly.)*

You *are* enjoying your visit here, aren't you, dear?

EVALYN

Why, Auntie, dear, you know I am!

MRS. GROTON

You seem to be. But so many girls of your age would think it very tiresome to be tied up to an old woman who can't keep her hands out of mission work, anywhere she goes.

EVALYN

*(Laughing.)*

Uncle Dick's nice little plan for your vacation didn't work very well, did it? He thought you couldn't find anything to do up here.

MRS. GROTON

I did mean to rest to please him—but *(sadly)* one can't refuse water to thirsty souls. How they drink it!

EVALYN

*(Soberly.)*

I wouldn't have missed this experience for anything, Aunt Grace. I'll admit I didn't know much about missions. When they asked me to write a paper or review a book for our missionary meeting at home, I always got out of it somehow, because I had an idea missions must be awfully dry and stupid.

MRS. GROTON

And you've changed your mind?

EVALYN

Why, it's perfectly fascinating! The people are so dear and funny—and they really care. To tell you the honest truth, I used to be rather sorry for the heathen, to think that we should force them to go to church and Sunday-school, too! It seemed to me that was one of the penalties one had to pay for the privilege of living in a civilized country and it didn't seem quite fair to make the heathen pay it, too.

MRS. GROTON

*(With a laugh followed quickly by a sigh.)*

You dear child, how little you know of what heathenism really means!

EVALYN

*(Seriously.)*

It is hard to understand. *(With sudden enthusiasm.)* But, oh, Aunt Grace, I know what I'll do! I'll have some lantern slides made from my pictures when I go back, and then I'll give the missionary society a talk about our trip up here

MRS. GROTON

That will be very nice, dear. Think of the money in that big city church! Why, if all you girls would economize on gloves and hats a little, the saving in a year would be enough to keep a missionary at work in this village!

EVALYN

*(Cheerfully.)*

Oh, we wouldn't need to do that. Our fathers could mostly give us some more without missing it. We'll get our allowances raised, and then send a missionary out here! Wouldn't that be fine!

MRS. GROTON

*(Eagerly.)*

Evalyn! Do you think they might?

EVALYN

I don't see why not.

MRS. GROTON

Oh, how wonderful! I have dreaded so to go back and leave these poor people with no one to lead them. They are so eager for the light.

EVALYN

*(Fondly.)*

Well, I'll tell the girls, Auntie, dear, and you shall have a missionary for them. I am sure we can find some one!

MRS. GROTON

*(Doubtfully.)*

It may be harder to find the missionary than to find the money.

EVALYN

Oh, the right person will turn up. Just wait and see!

*(Mura comes in with a low table which she places in front of the guests. She goes out again and comes in with a tray on which are a teapot, cups, and a plate of rice-cakes. She puts the tray on the table, pours the tea, removes the teapot and plates, and then passes the cups of tea on it to Mrs. Groton and Miss Tower; afterward she passes the plate of cakes. The conversation goes on during the progress of the ceremony.)*

MRS. GROTON

I am glad, Mura San, that we are to meet your husband at last. Did you say he had lived in New York?

MURA

Yes—for a year!

MRS. GROTON

*(To Evalyn.)*

Think of it, Evalyn! A whole year in New York, and never heard of Christ!

EVALYN

Like enough they were Theosophists he lived with, or Buddhists perhaps. I remember seeing a Buddhist mission in San Francisco.

MRS. GROTON

*(To Mura.)*

And this student who has come—he is a Buddhist, I suppose?

MURA

I do not know. I have never seen him.

EVALYN

Well, at least, if he has studied in America, he will know that we are not telling lies. *(Rising and going to the little recess where the one picture in the room is hung.)* You don't mind, O Mura San, if I look at your honorable picture? It is enchanting!

MURA

I am happy if our unworthy decoration pleases the honorable lady!

EVALYN

Do come and see, Auntie. Isn't it lovely?

MRS. GROTON

*(Going to Evalyn's side and looking at the picture.)*

Beautiful.

*(The two men come in at the opposite side of the room.)*

MURA

*(Timidly.)*

My husband desires to make his bow to the honorable ladies.

*(Mrs. Groton and Evalyn turn quickly, but Hoshi is bent double before they have faced him. He murmurs a greeting, and turns to Mito.)*

HOSHI

(*Proudly.*)

And to present his friend, Mito San, a student from America. (*Mito bows also. As the women turn from the wall, Mrs. Groton was partially in front of Evalyn. She now steps back and Hoshi has a good look at Evalyn, for the first time. He starts forward suddenly.*)

HOSHI

You!

EVALYN

Hoshi!

HOSHI

You! You have just heard, too?

EVALYN

Just heard?

HOSHI

You have just found out about this religion—of Christ?

EVALYN

No, I—I have always known.

HOSHI

(*Slowly.*)

You have always known! And I lived in your house for a year, and you never told me! *Why* didn't you tell me?

MURA

You lived in *her* house!

MRS. GROTON

(*To Evalyn.*)

In *your* house, child!

HOSHI

Why didn't you tell me?

EVALYN

(*Faltering.*)

I—I don't know! I *think* I supposed you knew.

HOSHI

*Supposed* I knew! (*Bitterly.*) If you saw a man starving and knew there was plenty just around the bend of the road, would you keep silence because you *supposed* he knew, or would you speak to make *sure* he knew?

EVALYN

*(Brokenly.)*

Oh, Aunt Grace! tell him I didn't understand.

MRS. GROTON

My niece has lived always in a Christian country, and has not realized until lately anything of what it means to be without Christ.

MURA

*(To Hoshi.)*

I thought you did not believe.

HOSHI

But Mito San says it is true! And he must know.

MURA

*(Joyfully.)*

Oh, then we can hear about it together!

HOSHI

Yes, he has given me a little book to read. And he has come back here to teach the people about Christ.

MRS. GROTON

Indeed! Oh, I am glad to hear that, Mito San. No one can do so much good here as a Japanese missionary.

MITO

Your niece, Miss Tower, advised me not to come, the last time I had the pleasure of meeting her.

EVALYN

*(Looking up suddenly.)*

Advised *you*——? Where?——Oh——h!

MITO

You came to a tea that Miss Gould gave for the Oriental students in New York——do you remember? You thought it was "very interesting." I heard you say so to another young lady.

EVALYN

Oh——yes! And you told me about your plans, and I——

MITO

You wondered why I should come back here to "waste a good education on people who were quite well satisfied with their own beliefs."

EVALYN

Did I say that? I didn't know!

MITO

You also said that people in Japan who really wanted to learn about Christianity could come to America, as I had done. It does not seem to have worked, in all cases.

EVALYN

Oh! don't! (*To them all.*) I must tell you, if I can. Listen. Once I went to visit father's mine out in Kansas. I had heard that children were born and lived down in those mines without ever seeing the sunlight, but I didn't believe it. I don't mean I thought people were lying about it, but—it didn't mean anything to me—it didn't get into my *heart*, until—until I went down there in the dark. Of course the village was well lighted, but the dark seemed to be pressing in from all sides, and overhead—ugh! just shadows and blackness. No blue sky! *No sunshine!* I asked a little girl, six years old, when she was up last, and she said, "Up? Up the shaft? Oh, I never was up there. I wish I *could* go. What is it like? What is sunshine?" I believed it then. Do you see? It's the same way about this. I never really *believed* there were people who had never heard of Christ. (*Turning to Hoshi.*) When you lived with us, Hoshi, it never occurred to me that you didn't *know* about him. I supposed you were a Buddhist, or a Confucianist, or something else, because you preferred to be. I never realized before that there were people who didn't *know*.

MRS. GROTON

Dear child, you *do* know now, and you will try to help some of the others to understand, won't you, dear?—some of those who have money to send, and some who can come themselves?

EVALYN

(*Humbly.*)

I will try.

HOSHI

I have a thought: Why can we not call a meeting at the hotel to-night, and have Mito San speak to the people about the new religion? I know the proprietor,—I'm sure he will allow it, and we can have the crier announce it at once! You will speak, will you not, Mito San?

MITO

Yes—it is my work! I will speak. And the American ladies also will speak, I hope? (*Turning to Mrs. Groton.*)

HOSHI

Yes, indeed! the honorable ladies will not refuse.

MRS. GROTON

*(Appealing to Mura.)*

Would it not be considered too shocking?

MURA

Oh, no!

MITO

*(Smiling.)*

*Anything is permitted to Americans.*

MRS. GROTON

I see. Well, if it is proper, I am willing to speak. Evalyn, dear, will you sing for them?

MURA

Oh, please!

EVALYN

*(Gently.)*

Yes, I will sing.

HOSHI

Good! Then I will go at once to arrange about the room and the crier. *(To Mura.)* Mito San has not had any tea since he arrived, and I shall be glad of some when I come back. Farewell!

*(He goes out. Mura is horrified that she has been so inhospitable, and takes the tea-tray, to go and make fresh tea, with many murmured apologies.)*

EVALYN

*(Impulsively.)*

Oh! O Mura San, may I come and help?

MRS. GROTON

*(Shocked.)*

Evalyn! My dear!

MURA

*(Pleased.)*

Oh! if the honorable lady will deign to come into my poor little kitchen, I shall be very happy.

*(Mura and Evalyn go out.)*

MRS. GROTON

I am sorry that dear Evalyn does not take life a little more seriously. I hope this experience will sober her, and make her think. (*Pause.*) I am always so glad to see the Japanese students coming home with an earnest purpose.

MITO

(*With repressed feeling.*)

My purpose has changed in the last half hour.

MRS. GROTON

How is that?

MITO

I came home to help make Japan like America—a "Christian country." I am here now to help to make it *different* from America.

MRS. GROTON

What do you mean?

MITO

America is not a Christian country. I see it all now. I used to wonder why it was that people did not seem to care. I thought I did not understand them. It was true—I did *not* understand. They are Christian only in name—most of them.

MRS. GROTON

(*Excited.*)

You have no right to say that! It is not becoming in a young man to speak so of a great country like America.

MITO

I know it is not, but, there are times when politeness is not the most important thing in the world. (*Somewhat bitterly.*) That is one lesson I learned in America.

MRS. GROTON

(*Coldly.*)

You have learned it very well.

MITO

(*Not noticing; absorbed in his own thought.*)

I begin to see the truth. America has taught me one more lesson.

MRS. GROTON

Indeed! What is it?

MITO

I think at first—(may God forgive me!)—I accepted Christianity because it was the religion of America, and I thought America was the greatest thing in the world.

MRS. GROTON

Oh, yes! And now?

MITO

Now I know that *Christianity* is the greatest thing in the world, and that America is great only so far as she is Christian—only for so *long* as she is Christian. Japan must adopt Christianity, not because it is *American*, but because it is *true*. Oh! I see so many things now.

MRS. GROTON

Your ideas are very interesting, I am sure.

MITO

The warships, now—all those millions spent on useless hulks of steel, when thousands are dying in poverty of body, mind, and soul,—I used to think it must be right because America, and England, and Germany, and the others—the *Christian* nations!—did it. But I knew in my heart—it is *not Christian*. Christ must be our standard—not the West!

MRS. GROTON

And I suppose you are ready to interpret to Japan what that standard is?

MITO

I am ready to help show Japan the *Christ*, from whom she must evolve her own standard. It may be that Christianity is waiting for Japan to be its next standard-bearer.

MRS. GROTON

It is very likely.

*(A crier is heard outside, announcing the evening meeting, in Japanese.)*

MITO

The meeting! Hoshi San got the hotel!

MRS. GROTON

Evidently. Are you going to say to the villagers what you have just been saying to me?

MITO

*(Troubled.)*

I don't know *what* to say to them. If I tell the truth, with you and Miss Tower there, it will be very rude.

MRS. GROTON

Doubtless. But you say there are sometimes things of more importance than politeness to be considered.

MITO

It is true. I do not know—

*(Hoshi comes in, exultant.)*

HOSHI

It is all arranged! *(He notices Mrs. Groton's excitement and Mito's troubled look.)* Are you not pleased?

MRS. GROTON

Oh, very much!

MITO

Yes—it is right.

*(Hoshi feels that something is wrong and looks wonderingly from one to the other. Evalyn and the wife come in with the tea and rice-cakes.)*

EVALYN

Aunt Grace, the missionary has been found—for our girls to send over here.

MRS. GROTON

*(Astonished.)*

Why—who?—where?—

EVALYN

I am going to offer myself—when I have learned something useful!

MRS. GROTON

*(In consternation.)*

You! Evalyn! You don't mean it!

EVALYN

I *do* mean it, Aunt Grace—more than I ever meant anything in my whole life.

MURA

The honorable lady will come over here to teach us—to sing to us—to *live* with us?

EVALYN

Yes, dear.

MURA

Ah! happiness! To have you always here!

MRS. GROTON

But, Evalyn, this is preposterous! Your mother would never forgive me!

EVALYN

(*Laughing, a little tremulously.*)

I am sorry, Auntie, dear, but I can't help it. You have brought me here, and I have found my duty here. I didn't know I had any, before!

MITO

You are to be congratulated. Even a mistaken duty is better than none.

MRS. GROTON

Mistaken! I should say it *is* mistaken!

EVALYN

(*To Mito.*)

Why do you say it is mistaken?

MRS. GROTON

(*Before Mito has time to speak.*)

Of course it is mistaken! I tell you it is preposterous. There are plenty of girls in America who have not your prospects or opportunities, and who would probably be glad of the chance to come. It is your place to help *send* them.

EVALYN

(*With dignity.*)

My *money* can do *that*. To fulfil my duty, I must come myself.

MRS. GROTON

What makes you think it is your duty to come?

EVALYN

(*Slowly.*)

The opportunity was brought to me, and I didn't use it; now I ought to take it where I find it.

MRS. GROTON

My dear child! you are making a mountain out of a mole-hill! You take things too seriously.

MITO

"Too seriously"—now!

MRS. GROTON

(*Not noticing.*)

That was merely an accident. Of course you did not understand. How should you? You are not called to throw away your life just on account of that one mistake.

EVALYN

But it is not throwing away my life to carry sunshine into a dark place! If it is, I'm glad I have a life to throw away.

HOSHI

Oh! if the honorable lady will believe me, it will not be thrown away!

MURA

Not thrown away! No!

HOSHI

(*To Evalyn.*)

You say you *believed* when you went down into the dark mine—but you did not *know*—you *could* not know, what it is to *live* in the dark—to have every trail you follow in search of light lead only into deeper blackness, until you finally say, "There is no light; it is only an imagination of men's minds."

MITO

It is when our students come to that point that they commit suicide—by the score. Self-destruction at the mandate of the Emperor was a far happier thing than this!

HOSHI

But the reason we do not *all* put ourselves to sleep is that it is so very hard for a man to believe that—that there is no light. If he cannot find it, he makes a little search-light of his own, and some men turn theirs up toward heaven and rejoice in the light they have shed on the gods, and some let the gleam fall on the faces of their friends—and others on their gold—and there are those who turn it upon themselves. But every man who goes on living has his little ray of light.

MITO

Some Western scholars have discovered that, and now they say that mankind's own illumination is the only light.

EVALYN

It is like a man carrying a candle out into the sunshine and thinking he is making all the light.

MITO

Yes, the light is there, but a man's eyes must be open to see it.

EVALYN

(*Eagerly.*)

Then why do you say I am mistaken when I want to help open people's eyes? That is what *you* have come here to do.

MITO

(*Slowly.*)

I did come here to do that, but I see things differently now. (*With sudden determination.*) I am going back to America!

EVALYN

You—you are not going to be a missionary after all?

MRS. GROTON

Why, of course, my dear, he is going to be a missionary to the benighted Americans—such as ourselves.

MITO

(*Calmly.*)

Hardly that, but I am going to do my best to prevent any of my fellow countrymen from leaving New York City at least, without some knowledge of the Christ. Men who come back here, as Hoshi did, without knowing, will be the hardest obstacle in the missionary's path. Hoshi San, you would honestly have thought it your duty to do everything in your power to stop the work these ladies were trying to do here, would you not?

HOSHI

Yes, for I thought it was only another blind trail—doomed to end in disappointment for all of us.

MITO

(*To Evalyn.*)

Does not your duty lie nearer home than Japan? You say you lost an opportunity; why not go back and take the next one like it—*find* opportunities—*make* them! I know it will be harder in some ways, than to come here—but perhaps “into all the world,” for you, means even into your own kitchen!

MURA

Oh! Mito San! We need her here!

MITO

You *do* need *some one*, but as Miss Tower says, she can help to *send* a missionary.

MRS. GROTON

You are quite right about it, and I hope, my dear Evalyn, that you will look at the matter more sensibly, and not break your mother's heart, and create a sensation in your circle at home by such an impetuous performance.

EVALYN

*(Coming out of her mood of exaltation enough to realize her Aunt's attitude for the first time.)*

Why, Aunt Grace, I thought—don't you regard missionary work as the highest to which a person can be called?

MRS. GROTON

It depends on the person. You don't seem to realize what you are giving up.

EVALYN

*(Slowly.)*

Perhaps I do realize more than you think—more than you *know*. *(In a low voice.)* It will mean breaking my engagement.

MRS. GROTON

Your engagement! How long—? Why didn't you tell me? Who—?

EVALYN

I meant to tell you to-day, Auntie, dear. I only sent my answer to Robert last night. To tell you the truth, I ran away over here to see you, because I wanted to be alone to think it out.

MRS. GROTON

Well, apparently it would have been better if you had staid at home to think it out. Robert Sinclair, I suppose? There's some one else who will blame me for this! *(Appealing to Mito.)* Can't you do something?

MITO

I am not trying to turn Miss Tower's thoughts away from missionary work. I am only trying to show her where her special field must lie. *(To Evalyn.)* Others will come here. But who is there in New York who will know—with the heart knowledge you have gained in the last hour—what the need is *there*? Think what you may do, with God's help, if you will go back and establish a home in the city which shall be a mission in itself!

EVALYN

*(Wistfully.)*

Tell me!

MITO

If you will have Japanese as servants in your house, they can help you to reach others, and if you will go into your servants' parlor and teach your own and all the others they can bring you—be a *friend* to them—there is no telling where the work you start may lead.

EVALYN

I could interest others, and we might build a clubhouse for them, where we could have reading-rooms, and Bible classes, and services Sunday afternoons.

MITO

Wonders may be done—if you will take the lead.

MRS. GROTON

"Robert" may have something to say about all this.

EVALYN

(*Ingenuously.*)

Oh, he will let me do anything I want to!

HOSHI

(*Aside to his wife.*)

American husbands are like that!

EVALYN

(*To Mito.*)

But, don't you see, I want to be sure that I am willing to do anything, to give up—anything!

MITO

(*Gently.*)

Yes, I know, and I think your test is this: are you willing to give up the romance, and the picturesqueness of the foreign missionary's sacrifice, and accept the humble duty that lies nearest you? I had hoped to work at home. To-day has brought me a clear call to go to America. I am going to answer that call. I am going back to New York to show my fellow countrymen the light. Will you help me?

EVALYN

I will! And Robert will help, too. I know he will.

MURA

I knew it was too good to be true—that *you* should stay *here*. But how can we learn, without any one to teach us?

HOSHI

And Mito San is going, too! It is hard.

EVALYN

*(To Mura.)*

O Mura San, you shall come with me! *(To Hoshi.)* Will you come and help in my new home? I have promised to be married next spring. Then you can get acquainted with other Japanese, and bring them to the house, and Mito San can come there and teach. I'll have a regular classroom fitted up. Oh! say you will come, Hoshi San! I'll send your steamer tickets over.

HOSHI

The honorable lady is too kind. I don't know—

EVALYN

Ah! you are thinking that I did not help you much, before. Please believe me, it will be different! I can never, never forget.

MURA

*(To Hoshi.)*

Oh! please say yes!

HOSHI

*(Slowly.)*

I had thought it would be good to be at home.

MITO

The home of a man's spirit is where he finds light.

HOSHI

It is true! *(To his wife.)* Let us go.

MURA

*(Going to Evalyn and kissing her hand.)*

I will do my best to serve the honorable lady well.

EVALYN

*(Tenderly.)*

Yes, dear, I know you will, and I will try to make you happy.

MURA

I *am* happy—so happy I must make a feast! And you will all stay and see the wistaria in the garden after supper, and then we can all go to the meeting together.

SEP 25 1912

MITO

The meeting——!



MRS. GROTON

Yes, the meeting. May I ask what it is your present honorable intention to say at the meeting?

MITO

I must tell the truth.

EVALYN

And so must I.

MRS. GROTON

In that case, it seems to me that you two will have so much explaining to do that it will not be necessary for me to occupy any time.

EVALYN

Oh, Aunt Grace, you must speak! They will all want to hear you. And besides, if it hadn't been for your work here, none of these plans would have been made.

MITO

And since you are the only one of us whose plans have not undergone a complete change in the course of the afternoon, I think we need you as a steadying influence.

MRS. GROTON

Then I, too, must tell the truth.

EVALYN

And what is it, Aunt Grace?

MRS. GROTON

*(Slowly.)*

That you two young people have taught me a lesson of devotion to a cause that I had thought I loved.

MURA

Then we are *all* happy, for we have all learned something.

THE END

1912

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 015 988 748 0

