PARABLES AND FABLES FOR MODERN MAN

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AND FABLES
FOR MODERN MAN

30 texts for teachers
or just for the pleasure of readers fond of
"flights of fancy"
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1. The camels

Horace looked up to the sky and said to his friends:

“What a fantastic star! I think it’s beckoning to us and asking us to follow it.”

They all lived near an oasis, where their lives were peaceful, simple and secure. They always had lots of grass and dates to eat and plenty of water to drink.

Nothing ever seemed to disturb the placid existence of these camels but they now sensed that their friend was certainly fascinated by the strange, bright new star. It puzzled them and they wondered what it could mean.

“I remember one of my dreams as a child”, continued Horace. “I saw a star rising over the horizon and clearly heard it beckoning everyone to follow in search of a new life, a new country, a new fatherland... I wonder if this could be the same one.”

Some of his friends now laughed at him. Those who hadn’t seen the star called him a mad visionary, a foolish dreamer. Those who had seen it called him crazy:


“Where? Wherever it may lead!” he answered, “and for ever, if we need to. Because it’s inviting us! I feel drawn towards it, helplessly... I’ll follow it, whatever it may cost. I’ve made up my mind and nobody can ever stop me!”

Most of the other camels left him alone and went back to eating, drinking and sleeping.

Only a few stayed behind. They were intrigued, both by the new shining star and by the way it seemed to have completely taken over their friend. One of them asked:

“Do you mean to go out into the desert, Horace, and leave all the comfort and security of this beautiful oasis?”
Parables encompass the depth and breadth of human existence and reflect the meaning of life through images and symbols. Jesus himself, by “speaking in parables”, touched the lives of people and opened before their eyes the treasures of the kingdom.

Presented in this book are thirty fascinating stories bearing on a variety of topics of interest to modern man, with commentaries and bible references to help the reader appreciate the thrust of each story and its application to actual life-situations. Besides providing a wholesome reading to those with a “flight of fancy”, this book is an invaluable help especially for teachers and group leaders, to encourage active discussion and the sharing of ideas.

PETER RIBES, born in Spain in 1925, is a writer and broadcaster living and working in India. These parables were originally written as “scripts” for audio-visual montages, role-playing and mime.