



Take the Higher Path

*A Puppet Show for Thinker's Theater in One Act
Script By Anne Haines*

Characters

MRS. GOTROCKS: A wealthy (and rude) old lady
RAVI SHIVADASHIAN: An Indian Man
MAYA SHIVADASHIAN: RAVI's wife

Scene 1

RAVI and MAYA are standing in front of MRS GOTROCKS house and knock on the door

MRS G opens the door

MRS G: Who's there?

RAVI: Hello Mrs. Gotrocks, we are your new neighbors next door.

MRS G: What do you want?

RAVI: Oh, we just thought we'd come over and introduce ourselves. My name is Ravi Shivadashian and this is my wife Maya.

MRS G: (*rudely*) So, you bought that shack next door, huh. How did you people get the money to move to Upper Crustville? I heard it sold for over 1 million dollars.

RAVI: My wife and I have worked very hard and saved the money over the years.

MRS G: Well, I hope you are quiet and leave me alone. I don't like nosy neighbors.

RAVI: Yes, we are quiet people and I hope we won't bother you.

MRS G slams door

MAYA: My, that lady is very unpleasant, isn't she? I was hoping we would have some nice neighbors. I hope we don't have any trouble with her.

They leave

A sign is held up saying "3 DAYS LATER"

MAYA knocks on MRS G's door. MRS G answers

MRS G: Now what is it?



MAYA: I just wondered if I could borrow 2 eggs? I am making a cake for the bake sale and we don't have any eggs. I will return them to you tomorrow, as soon as we go to the store.

MRS G: No, I don't have any eggs to spare. I need them all for myself.

MAYA: OK, I am very sorry to bother you.

MRS G slams door. MAYA leaves.

MRS G: What is it with these people? Don't they get it? I don't like them or their kind. Why can't they go back to India or wherever it is they came from? America should be for Americans!

A sign is held up saying "3 DAYS LATER"

RAVI knocks on MRS G's door. MRS G answers

MRS G: (*nastily*) It's you again. What do you want now?

RAVI: So sorry to bother you, but we were just wondering when the trash is put out?

MRS G: (*aside*) Why did they let it in?

RAVI: Pardon me?

MRS G: Nothing. Tomorrow night. Oh and by the way, would you please shut your windows when you are cooking. The smell of your food turns my stomach.

RAVI: OK, we will. Good bye, Mrs. Gotrocks, I hope you have a pleasant day.

RAVI leaves

MRS G: Humph! At MY age I can say anything I like to anyone I please.

A sign is held up saying "A WEEK LATER"

MAYA: Ravi, what is that awful smell? Is that MRS Gotrocks' dinner cooking? When she cooks her food always smells like it's burning.

RAVI: I don't know, it smells worse than usual.

MAYA: Maybe we should go look.

RAVI: Why? She has been nothing but rude and nasty to us. I really don't care if her house burns down.



MAYA: Ravi, I am surprised at you! I know she is not a pleasant person but we should always take the higher path.

RAVI: Yes, you are right. Let us go look.

MAYA and RAVI look outside at MRS G's house

MAYA: Look RAVI, there is smoke coming out of the window. I am going to call 911.

RAVI: I will go in and see if MRS Gotrocks is all right.

RAVI disappears while MAYA calls 911

MAYA: Hello? Yes, I would like to report a fire. Please send help right away!

RAVI reappears

RAVI: She has fallen and hurt herself and something was cooking on the stove. She could not get up to turn it off.

MAYA: Well, I just called 911. An ambulance and the fire department are on the way.

RAVI: Good, I'm glad we checked on her. She could have died!

A sign is held up saying "A WEEK LATER"

MRS G hobbles over to RAVI and MAYA's front door and knocks. They both appear.

RAVI: Oh MRS Gotrocks, how are you? We heard you were in the hospital.

MRS G: Yes, I sprained my ankle badly. I have something to say to you and your wife.

RAVI: Why certainly.

MRS G: I must apologize for the way I have treated you both. I laid in bed in the hospital and realized that if you hadn't come over in time, my house could have burned down with me in it. I was very rude to you and said nasty things that no one of any age has the right to say to someone. Would you please forgive me?

MAYA: Yes, we forgive you MRS Gotrocks. We will forget the past and start over. We would like to be your friends.

MRS G: Yes, I would like that very much. Perhaps I could even try some Indian food!

THE END



Discussion Questions

1. Maya and Ravi were suffering from discrimination. Discrimination means treating people differently in a bad way because of their appearance, race, sexuality, religion, gender or disability. Can you think of some examples of discrimination?
2. Mrs. G thinks she is allowed to discriminate against her new neighbors because she is elderly. Yet Jesus teaches us not to discriminate against others no matter who we are as we are all children of God. Read Mark 12:28-33 about how Jesus reminds us to “love our neighbor”.
3. Maya and Ravi “take the higher path” by continuing to love their neighbor Mrs. G even though she doesn’t treat them very well. They are practicing Jesus’ teaching even though it is difficult at times. Was there ever a time in your life where loving your neighbor was hard? Why is it important to try our best to love our neighbors even when they are being mean?
4. Maya and Ravi eventually forgive Mrs. G for how she treated them, and welcome her as their neighbor and friend. Jesus taught us to forgive others even telling Peter to forgive someone “seventy-seven times”. Have you ever forgiven someone? How did you feel after?
5. Another parable Jesus told us to help us remember how important it is to treat everyone with kindness – even if they are different from us – is the Parable of The Good Samaritan. Read Luke 10:25-38 and talk about how that parable is like the puppet show “Take the Higher Path” that you just watched.

Director’s Notes

1. This puppet show is about discrimination and loving your neighbor even when it is difficult. The puppet show is written with the idea of an elderly woman discriminating against a middle age Indian couple who moves into her affluent neighborhood. However, the races, genders, and sexualities of all the characters can be changed to illustrate how discrimination can affect all of us.
2. Many puppets can be found on eBay including the Learning Resource puppets.
3. Ministry puppets can be adapted for this script. Be creative, a variety of puppet styles can work very well.