

The mission of the angel academy was to train candidates for supporting the various kingdoms throughout the universe. Each one had its own struggles, and needed particular knowledge of the makeup of the souls that were its citizens.

How to motivate the population for Good was a necessary course for all of the students. Those who would be working with the planet Earth were watching a video of a man trying to start a lawnmower. When the subject had been announced, there were some groans scattered throughout the class. One angel spoke up and asked in a somewhat whiny voice, "Why do we need to understand how this machine works?"

The mentor replied, "It is not the machine that cuts their grass that is the subject. You must learn to understand how the human "machine" works. You need to understand how a human approaches the problem of starting this device, for it relates to his own makeup. Watch the scene and think of the parallels that you see.

The trainees had already had a course in Universe Physics, so they could understand the mechanical principles of the mower. They knew about combustion and inertia, and so on. So, they settled back to try to gain something from the show.

The man was having difficulty getting the engine to start. He had cranked and cranked with the pull cord until sweat was dripping from his brow. He had checked the gas level, gas quality, gas feed, air filter, spark plug gap, and had demonstrated that the plug was actually getting a spark. His back seemed to be aching from all of the bending over the machine and from repeatedly pulling the cord.

At this point the teacher stopped the video and commented, "The real parallel here is that in this story we see a reduction of the greater story, that of the Creator trying to "start" a human spirit. We know that a similar problem exists in trying to start a nation, as well. Much effort was put into the establishment of a kingdom, but just like the mowing machine, it just would not keep running.

If the man you see in the video finally gives up on getting the machine started, he has the option of throwing it away or taking it to a specialist and having it fixed. The former possibility was considered by God¹, but the latter case was the one He followed (in the sense of having the Israelites carried into captivity²).

They returned to watching the man in his frustration pulling the cord again and again in his attempts to start the lawnmower. He finally sprayed a special chemical into the machine and after cranking a couple of more times the engine started. He then stood straight and smiled a huge smile. There was something sweet about the sound of the mower when it starts and runs smoothly. Especially since it is now able to perform its mission, which was cutting the grass of the lawn to a reasonable level. This activity was representative of keeping his life under control, in a sense. And the aroma of new-cut grass was sort of special, too.

The mentor stopped the video and faced the group. "Note how the man tried many things to get his machine working, just as the Master tried deliverance, rest, awe, punishment, reward, and love to try to get the humans motivated. It was if He tried different fuel mixes, and tried to clean out the gunk in their hearts as He worked to motivate them. God has a similar reaction to the man when He sees His creation "start" and begin following Him. And there is a certain aroma³ to the true response that they have to Him."

The smarter students began to realize the parallel, and save what the teacher was trying to tell them. Now they had a better understanding of how to work with the human species.

1. Exodus 32:8-9
2. Jeremiah 20:4, for example
3. Genesis 8:21, for example

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