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DEAR READER:

We sometimes wonder at Thanksgiving just how meaningful are the thanks we offer. It is not that we are consciously insincere in offering our thanks. It may be because we have not learned to appreciate the good because we have never tasted the bad.

Can we, for example, be truly thankful for a feast if we have never experienced hunger but only abundance? Can we appreciate freedom if we have never been slaves or lived under a tyrant? Can we fully give thanks for the warmth and security of our homes if we have never been alone in a wilderness, cold, tired, and lonely? Can we really appreciate good health until we become sick? Can we give thanks for being with our family and friends if we have never been a stranger alone and unwanted in some hostile and foreign place?

Perhaps our prayers of thanks could be more meaningful even though we have never experienced these hardships if we but use our imagination. Our imagination can provide credence to our thanks. If we allow our minds to experience cold, hunger, and misery even though our bodies have been spared these discomforts . . . if we can think about and truly feel for our fellowmen who may be less fortunate . . . we ourselves can become less selfish and self-centered.

It may well be, at least on Thanksgiving, when we consciously think of some human being who is hungry, cold, tired, and alone, our feelings for him will be reflected in our prayers and we can be truly thankful—thankful for all we ourselves have been spared.

THE EDITOR

