

# A Parable of the Way

*Leandro Pagnussat*

**H**ere begins a parable about a young wanderer who was in search of himself and on a search for God. Dreams were constant in his life; but he never had given much attention to what they were saying, nor did he believe their reality. Yet he dreamed that he encountered a wise old man who himself had been a wanderer, and who shared his life with him, and told him of a place to live called "The Way of the Heart." Not understanding much about what such an expression, "Way of the Heart," could mean, he nevertheless followed the guidance of this wise old man. Never had he heard anyone speak of such a place, but he risked the journey. He took a small boat and a few belongings. What was essential was to arrive and to live there for some time.

This place was located in the north of the planet, distant from his native land. Everything was different: different customs, another manner of speaking, and especially, another manner of cultivating life. As he traveled, he tried to imagine what this place could be like, and in his imagination there were so many possibilities. After days upon days of travel, he found himself secluded away in an immense forest with a great variety of animals, plants, and a lot of water: a true paradise, the place to which the wise old man had directed him. In a few words, the place was simple and harmonious.

Throughout his life this young wanderer had had little contact with plants, animals, and the other creatures that would exist there. He had lived years of his life closed in upon himself, not wanting to see the beauty of the world.

When he arrived at this place, after traveling many days, he had the impression that he was on another planet, and in fact, he was. He had brought a small bag with him, and in it he carried his restlessness and anxiety because it all did not fit in his heart. With the passing of days he began to understand this new language and to communicate with the people who lived there. In the frequent conversations that he had over time with these people, he discovered that they oriented their lives through a great book. But what was

---

## *Seeds of Newness*

**THE GOSPELS IDENTIFY JESUS with the needy little ones. To see or recognize the Risen Lord is to see him in them. To reach them is to reach him.**

MARIANNE SAWICKI  
U.S. theologian, scripture scholar

---

most impressive was that this book contained only two words: love and listen. All of the life they lived there was guided from this book. He discovered that in this place, guided by the orientation of this book, even the animals and plants spoke. Everything and everyone communicated.



However, there was one species there that particularly drew his attention. It was the sheep. And several months after being there, new lambs were born, with one of them being orphaned in the first week of its life.

There seemed to be a force that united this young man with this tiny lamb more and more each day. The young man began to care for the lamb, feeding it several times a day. His little friend needed a name. What would it be? Then the young man remembered the happiest moments of his own childhood, and the name "Pimba" came to mind - the name of an animated cartoon character that he enjoyed immensely!

Everyday at nine in the morning this young man and his friend, Pimba, had a significant encounter. This relationship with Pimba enabled the young man to look upon the other animals, the birds, the turtles, the fish, the plants, and everything that exists as a creature of God. Being close to nature enabled this young man even more to encounter his own self, the other human beings with whom he lived, and the God who is present everywhere. He discovered that the true art of loving is giving oneself, and being a gift for others. And so he would continue on this journey forever. His heart was at peace.

This place exists: Weston Priory. I am this young man; and the story is real. ☒

*Leandro Pagnussat has been living with our community since April 2006. In July, he will return to his native Brazil to continue his theological studies. His presence among us has been a joy, and we give thanks for this gift of brotherhood and friendship.*