

There is so much to do and so little time to do it. In a lifetime there can be an experience which dies with the death of the individual. What will have been achieved? How can this experience be passed on? Will the world benefit from that experience? What effect can a headmaster have on an individual that can dramatically raise the presence and character of the pupil? Each pupil should have a fire to make the world a good place. How can a Head get this conception passed on?

Head teachers must inspire. The fire must be lit by challenge, example and kindly effect. The world is a theatre and there should be no more powerful actor than a Head. Their task is to light the fire. The desire for results has to be tempered with a practical skill and common sense.

To light the fire there has to be something that the Head has experienced. It may be the hell of a war - the sight of a carnage of the aftermath of a battle. It might be a visit to prison. It might be the sight of the Dachau concentration camps the day of release, with the gauntness of the paper-pyjama clad human tragedy in its hollow sunken eyes. It might be the despair of some unhappiness. Today these horrors are rare. But this is a world which is too unhappy.

The trigger of love of children can inspire. The animal instincts of man are so triumphant that they beg recompense in the form of love. Many parents, particularly single family mothers, have this quality of achieving a love which brings experiences to their children. This brings towards a fulfilled life for their children. There is much which we know we do not know. Probably the basic qualities of a mother are most important to shine out from the Head teacher.

The fire and ambitions of a Head to give the children experiences that widen their outlook sets a pattern. It should form an attitude of drive and approach by pupils to live life on a higher plane. It should give a more responsible attitude - a loving regard for the worth of objects and persons, and a knowledge of the practical world. We are too apathetic. It is a wonderful world.

We are subject to a moribund and apathetic society. Impractical fashions affect education books and say - Sentence Method - ITA - the play way - what happened to Nuffield French? What good do these fashions do? Does multiple accountability increase efficiency? The boredom of television programmes and a material society enclosed within dull homes shriek out for a fire to be lit for a more happy and scintillating society. Why do we set up so many obstacles? What is wrong with simplicity?

Who unlocks the door to this happier age? Who lights the fire we all should have to be a pilgrim in the world? If the Head teacher or any educationist hasn't lit the fire by the experiences they give the children I think that they have failed despite the obstacles. The mediocre is not good enough. Personality can be taught. Character can be developed. There are large reserves in each of us which are not brought out and which we can develop. Brightness and light can be brought into our lives, and we can affect others if we ourselves crusade. The effect we have on each other can be changed. What a difference the first daffodil in Spring brings! You haven't got to be clever to be happy. You haven't got to be clever to pass that happiness on to others.

It is a need for us to make light of misfortune and become more mature in working towards making other people happy. This is the Christian message - the Moslem message - the Buddhist message. Yet here we are in Devon grinding away at dullness and mediocrity when we have the richest environment in the world, not to mention our heritage. We are rich. What we need in a County Orgy. An orgy of cultural happiness, of responsibility to be aware of our gorgeous countryside and coast, of friendliness to each other and the realisation of the value of our families and friends and strangers we meet, and pursue this aim with a raging fire.

We need to light the fire of friendship, give our children experiences of fun and responsibility. There is so much to do and our spirit can leap at the thought and opportunity to light the fire and go out and do all that we do with pleasure and happiness.

It is the fire we light in other people that lights our fire - and that is the Head teacher's first task. Let's set the world afire.