



## A Boy's prayer

From "A Man with His God: The Prayers of Those Who Do Not Pray"

By Janusz Korczak

I know it's not nice to ask. But I am not asking of you for anything, my good Lord.  
Don't give me anything.

It is just that my uncle promised me a watch if I would study well. All you need to do is help me, just remind my uncle of his promise.

I will make an effort; after all it doesn't really matter if he gives it to me now or later. I told my friends I would have a watch, but they didn't believe me. They will mock me, they will think I lied and that I was being arrogant.

Help me, God, it's so easy for you, after all you can do whatever you want. Help me, my dear, good God. Forgive me for my sins. I have sinned a lot. I secretly ate some jam from the jar; I made fun of at the hunchback; I lied saying that mom allows me to go to bed whenever I want; I've already smoked a cigarette twice, I said nasty words.

But you are good and benevolent, forgive me for I am repenting and seeking to mend my ways. I want to be good, but I can't. If someone annoys me, or tempts me, and I don't want him to think I'm scared; Or if I am bored, or if I want something very much, and it is forbidden - I can't resist, even though I regret it later. After all, I'm not bad.

Not that I want to praise myself. For you know by yourself, because you know everything, my good Lord, that there are worse than me. I only lie sometimes, while every word they utter is a lie. And they steal.

My breakfast vanished twice, my notes were stolen, a pencil was snatched from my pencil case. They taught me those words. You know, God. I do not like to complain, but you know for yourself that I am not bad, even though I do so many bad things. Help me, my good God, so that I will not sin. Grant my parents a long life and health. And remind my uncle the thing about the watch. After all, a promise should be kept...

