

**Final Assembly of the First Waldorf School:  
Teachers' Addresses to the Students, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 1938  
(excerpt)**

*Translation by Eva A. Gardner*

*Source: Unauthenticated Event Transcript Personal Library Ida Oberman*

{Note: the Assembly begins with the Third Grade as already for two years the opening of new first grades had been forbidden.}

MR. TITTMAN:

Dear Children of the Third Grade!

A most beautiful tree was growing on a very high mountain which bore the most delicious fruit both in summer and in winter, and whoever tasted of it became healthy in body, strong in his soul and bright in spirit, but only a few people knew about this tree. However, a hermit lived on the mountain to whom the children came from the valley. He gave them of this delicious fruit, and they became healthy in their bodies, strong in their souls and bright in their spirit. One day though this tree was struck by lightning, and the hermit knew the children would no longer be able to eat off the tree. And when they came to him again on the mountain, he said: "Dear children, it will now be a long time before you will again be able to eat off this tree, because it was struck by lightning." The children then called out: "Oh, why did this have to happen?" and the hermit replied: "This too happened according to God's will." And he distributed the fruit which was still on the tree among the children and said: Eat once more and then take the kernels with you down into the village and you will all put them into your gardens. And if you place them into a good soil, they will germinate and grow, and if you shelter and care for them, they will one day become trees and bear fruit just as delicious as our old tree, which we have now lost. Then the children took the kernels and planted them in their gardens.

Dear children, what you have received here in the Waldorf School were those precious fruit of the wonderful tree. But today we give you the kernel to take with you: plant it in your heart, into the best earth area of your heart, protect and tend the sprout and the little growing plant. Then later the tree which bears such wonderful fruit, will also grow and you will be healthy in your body, strong in your soul, and bright in your spirit.