

## **Inner Call Podcast #129 Giving Up Everything June 17 2021**

Once upon a time a penniless monk was wandering by the bank of a river, and as it was a warm day, he stopped to have a drink of the cool, rippling water. Then, finding a place in the shade of the trees, he lay down, with a smooth stone from the riverbank tucked under his head, and fell asleep.

He awoke when a woman, accompanied by her young daughter, came to fetch water. As the woman was filling her jug, the little girl looked at the monk, and asked, "Mama, who is that?"

The woman glanced at the monk, and said, "He is a monk, child."

"A monk? What is that?"

"Someone who gives up everything to follow God."

"Everything? His house and everything?"

"Yes," confirmed the mother. "Everything."

The drowsy monk felt satisfaction to hear himself described in this way, but the little girl, looking closely at him, said, "But he didn't give up his pillow."

"No," said the mother, "that is true, daughter. He didn't give up his pillow."

Irritated, the monk sat up abruptly and threw the stone into the river.

"And," added the woman, "he hasn't given up his anger, either."