

Lesson 2

READ THIS STORY #2, Advanced

A Hearing

Mr. Roberts sat alone at the front table in the courtroom. The old man had comported himself with dignity throughout the long hearing. He had not interrupted the proceedings.

The judge glanced in his direction when the lawyer contended that Mr. Roberts was no longer capable of handling his financial affairs. It was implied that Mr. Roberts was impoverishing his heirs by impulsively donating money and goods to every charlatan who knocked at his door. The lawyer stated that his relatives felt it was not necessary to commit him to an institution, but they wished to appoint a conservator to preserve the assets of his estate.

Mr. Roberts rose and spoke to the judge. “It’s true that I have given money, and many of my belongings, to those who have asked for help. God has been good to me, and I am impelled by my beliefs to share what I have with others. I don’t presume to judge whether they are worthy recipients of my gifts or not. I love my family, but they have enough money.”

The judge sighed. This situation was not unique. He would take the request for a conservator under advisement until next week.