

April 3, 2020

The Old Telephone

As two young people were out walking
They came upon something they'd never seen before

“What is this?”, they asked.
It says ‘telephone’ on it.”

They moved closer to it
They read that you had to deposit fifty-cents
“Like a vending machine?”

They stared at the worn and beat-up old thing,
“Why would people use this
When everyone has a cellphone?”

An older person then walked up to the two young ones
And said to them:
“Before everyone had a cellphone,
We used these pay-phones, as we called them,
To call people.”

Also, the older person said,
“These are used by people who want to make calls,
And not have them tracked like their cellphone can.”

“Ah...” Said the two young people in understanding.
“Like drug dealers?”
The older person merely smiled in reply.

Then one of the young persons asked,
“What if you didn't have change to make a call
And needed to? Like it was an emergency?”

The older person replied,
“You dialed ‘0’ and told the person who answers,
That person is called ‘The Operator’
That you want to make a ‘collect call’

To whomever you needed to
And the person you were calling
Would have to accept the charges
That you weren't able to pay
Trust me, I had to do it a few times myself."

"Wow..." The young people said in unison
"That's really neat."

"Yes, young ones, this is how us old ones
Survived without cell phones."

The young ones thanked the old one
Then walked away.
Enlightened to the past
And the need for not only the old ones to teach them
But for old things to still be around and useful