Rich and poor

Once upon a time a rich man took his son around the country with the firm intention of showing the boy just how poor people could be. They spent a few days on a farm, which the rich man regarded as an example of great poverty. After they returned home, the father asked his son if he had enjoyed the trip.

“I enjoyed it a lot”, the son replied.

“Did you learn anything about what it’s like to be poor?”

“I saw that we have one dog, and they have four”, the boy answered. “We have a swimming pool in the house, and they have a massive bay to swim in. We have lamps in the garden, and they have all the stars in the sky. Our patio reaches as far as the front yard and they have as far as the horizon. We have servants to wait on us, while they look after others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls to protect us, but they have friends to protect them.”

The rich man remained silent. Then the boy added:

“Thank you, Dad, for showing me how poor we are.”