

A Case of Hoarseness

Pianist Artur Rubinstein, one of the greatest piano virtuosos of the 20th Century and loquacious in eight languages, once told this story on himself:

Some years ago, he was assailed by a stubborn case of hoarseness. The newspapers were full of reports about smoking and cancer, so he decided to consult a throat specialist.

“I searched his face for a clue during the 30-minute examination,” Rubinstein said, “but it was expressionless. He told me to come back the next day. I went home full of fears, and I didn’t sleep that night.”

The next day, there was another long examination and again an ominous silence.

“Tell me,” the pianist exclaimed. “I can stand the truth. I’ve lived a full, rich life. What’s wrong with me?”

The physician said, “You talk too much.”

Most likely, you know people like that. Could you possibly be placed in that category? I’m asking myself that question, too. It is significant that God gave us one tongue, but two ears, and that is probably the right proportion for our conversation.

--Beecher Hunter