

Chapter 33

Substitute Teacher



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Audience: Adults (university students)

Field: Education

Gabriel is a substitute professor at a State University in the countryside of São Paulo, Brazil, also working at two other institutions in order to raise money for a high-cost medical treatment for his son. When teaching a subject to the graduation class, he had two attitudes that were not very well accepted. One of these attitudes happened twice: right at the beginning of the class, the professor instructed the class on the completion of the activities of that day stating that whoever finished could leave but also said that he himself would no longer stay in the room because he would be teaching at another private university, leaving the room unattended.

In another moment, when two students asked for help/explanation about a previous content, the professor replied that besides not having the time, he was not paid to do that, leaving the class surprised and without action, because many students were doubtful on the matter and also afraid of persecution and/or failing this class.

Faced with the events, the class was divided between reporting the teacher to the department board or enduring the situation in the name of solidarity for the teacher's situation with his son. If they did not report him, they would continue to not understand the subject, dealing with the risk of failing and of other classes going through the same situation.

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