THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Luke 10:25-37



I drift back into consciousness.
Stony ground lies rough against my face,
Hard against my wounded limbs.
Beaten, stripped,
Left for dead.
World upside down.
Jericho distant dream
Jerusalem …a hopeless goal.
The sun is now beating me.
How I hurt.
I call out with no voice
"Help me please……. please help me…!"

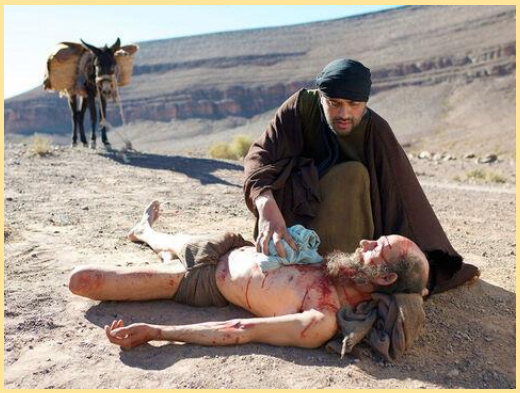
Footfalls approach.
Eye opens. Someone comes.
Nearer, nearer.
Focus. A priest!
I am saved!

Disbelief!
Nothing. No word, no help.
Just footfalls continuing
And receding.
They didn't even pause.
Gone.

Time drifts.

More footfalls. At last!
I look up from the ground. It is a Levite.
He looks towards me.
Please!
There is room at the far side of the road to take him out of reach
And he takes that route because he does not want to be distracted.
And off he goes with his high thoughts,
More important than me, just left to die.

Growing fear grasps me with its entwining roots of helpless loneliness….



I sense his compassion reaching out to me before I feel the gentle binding of my wounds.
Eyes now open; a Samaritan is holding me,
His tender care speaking of love and brotherhood.
I've never seen him before, yet he acts as a good and faithful friend.
I feel his love and this gives me peace.
He has reached out to where I am,
Giving of his oil and wine, giving totally of himself.
His love makes me trust him completely.
His beast bears my broken body and we reach an inn.
He ensures I am well cared for. Only then does he leave me.

I never see him again, but his selfless example of love ever stays with me. His love is all I remember.
He saved and restored my life, and gave it new meaning.
I now understand the full power of unconditional love:
I see my neighbours as fellow partners with God, and yes, I see the thieves as God surely sees them.
The serenity of forgiveness embraces my innermost thoughts,
Gives me a new and true sense of family, all one with God who is Love.
For that I give thanks to this dear Samaritan, and more than that, I give thanks to God..
MY LIFE TRANSFORMED BY LOVE, FOCUSED TO GO AND DO LIKEWISE.
ALL BECAUSE A STRANGER CARED.

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