

No.3 A Shining Star

There was a young man called Peter who studied at a local college. He didn't have much money and looked very skinny, as if someone glued his bones together. One day when he was walking to school, he saw an old lady struggling to cross the road, so he went to help her. The old lady didn't like the look of him, but had no other choice but to accept his offer of help. They reached the other side of the street and the young man left.

However, the old lady was still ungrateful and said, "Oh! Look at that man, so skinny and dirty. I'm sure he is very poor, he doesn't clean himself, and now I need to go home and take several showers." The lady left feeling furious. The young man continued to walk and noticed an old man walking to his mailbox to move a heavy parcel to his doorstep. He walked up to the old man and helped him. The old man accepted his help but once the young man left, the old man questioned his intentions. "He probably wants to get into my house to see what he can steal from me. I need to be more careful of this young man. There's a reason why this man is disliked in our neighbourhood."

Peter continued to walk and suddenly stopped when he noticed a girl begging for food. She had been starving for the whole week and looked like she was going to faint at any moment. He quickly took out his tattered wallet, took out his last 100 dollars and gave it to her. The girl was speechless and her heart was full of appreciation. But, the people passing by thought he was just showing off.

Every day the young man helped everyone in need on his way to school. They all accepted his help, yet they still disliked him because of his appearance. Then one day, everything changed.

That morning, the old woman was trying to cross the road, but no one came to help her and it took her almost an hour to cross the big, busy road. After finally crossing the road, she went to

the neighbourhood restaurant to have breakfast. Further down the road, the old man came out to see if his parcel was already at his doorstep, but to his surprise, it was not. The old man had to go out and pick up the heavy parcel by himself, injuring his back while doing so. After an exhausting effort, he also went to the neighbourhood restaurant to have breakfast. Just like the old man and the old lady, everyone else in the neighbourhood had also had a disastrous morning.

Everyone was complaining about their bad luck and unpleasant mornings when the girl who Peter gave money to entered and said loudly, “Today, we all had a horrible start to our day. We were unable to work like we used to and we were unable to complete simple daily tasks, Have you thought about what was different today? Mr. Peter didn’t come to help us. He is sick, resting in hospital. He helped us every day, but we didn’t care. We were afraid of him because of his appearance and his suspicious attitude. We were ungrateful to him. My mom once said that this world is cruel, everyone just cares about themselves, but there are some heroes in our society whose acts restore faith in humanity. Shouldn’t we be grateful for his kindness instead of taking his deeds for granted?”

Everyone in the restaurant looked embarrassed. An elder stood up and said, “My dear neighbours, this girl has spoken nothing but the truth. We have made a mistake and we have to do something to make amends.” After hearing the thoughts of the elder, everyone stood up and went to the hospital. On their way to the hospital, some went to buy some food, some went to buy clothes and some went to buy cards for Peter. As he was about to leave the hospital, Peter saw the whole neighbourhood at the exit. Without a second thought, Peter started to apologise, “Sorry, today I am not feeling very well, so I couldn’t help you take your dog for a walk...”. The elder interrupted, “Peter, my boy, please forgive us. We did not appreciate your help, we took your kindness for granted, and we are ready to accept your punishment. Please punish us or else we wouldn’t be able to forgive ourselves.” Peter replied, “Oh no, you are my elder, how can I not forgive you? I have a better idea. If you want a punishment, then do this. Every day you need to help others as if they are your family and do good deeds without expecting anything in return.”

After this incident, the neighbours started to help each other. And so, the message of love kept spreading. People in the neighbourhood all became good people doing good deeds without expecting anything in return. Even though they got no payment for their good deeds, they got something much more valuable in the end. They got fond memories and the love and support of their neighbours and the neighbourhood.