

A SHINING STONE IN THE SUN

A man named James and his wife were hiking in the mountains out West when he saw a stone – small, about the size of a half-dollar, with smooth, rounded edges.

Ordinarily, he said, he would have passed it by, not being a rock hound. It would have remained there for another thousand years perhaps – a mere pebble among the larger stones on the trail.

“But this one instantly caught my eye,” James said. “It was special. Glinting in the sunlight, it seemed to reflect all the surrounding colors, as though trying to mirror nature. Into my pocket went the rare find.”

All the way home to the East Coast James thought about where he should display the stone so its beauty could be most enjoyed. He finally placed it in a curio cabinet, next to some jade and carved ivory.

“I forgot it for a while. Then one day, while dusting, I was surprised to see that the stone had completely lost its luster. It sat on the shelf among the other lovely objects, a hard, gray chunk of nothing, downright ugly. I was shocked. What had happened to the prize I had so carefully brought back with me across the continent? Where was the sparkle and the colors that had attracted me so much?”

Disgusted, James snatched up the stone and started for the trash can in the backyard.

But just as he opened the kitchen door, a beam of light struck the stone. As though by magic, it began to shimmer, to glow again.

In an instant, the beautiful jewel tones shone brilliantly. Had they returned? Or had they always been there, dormant, waiting to be released?

Wondering, James glanced up at the sky. Sunlight? That was the answer, he thought.

“The rays from the sun were all my stone needed to come alive,” he said.

How much like that stone is each of us.

We are children of the King, made in His image.

But of ourselves, our lives are empty, colorless, without meaning. Only when we are touched by the glory of God is our inner beauty revealed.

When the Son’s light – the grace and radiance of Jesus Christ – shines through us, then is when we find true peace, comfort and joy. And our positive impact on others is evident.

Invite Jesus to be the Lord of your life – and witness the difference!

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:17 NKJV.)

– Beecher Hunter