

Search for the Mustard Seed

An old Chinese tale is about a woman whose only son died. In her grief, she went to the holy man and said, "What prayers, what magical incantations do you have to bring my son back to life?"



Instead of sending her away or reasoning with her, he said to her, "Fetch me a mustard seed from a home that has never known sorrow. We will use it to drive the sorrow out of your life."

The woman went off at once in search of that magical mustard seed.

She came first to a splendid mansion, knocked at the door, and said, "I am looking for a home that has never known sorrow. Is this such a place? It is very important to me."

The people in the mansion told her, "You've certainly come to the wrong place," and they began to describe all the tragic things that had recently befallen them.

The woman said to herself, "Who is better able to help these poor, unfortunate people than I, who have had misfortune of my own?" She stayed to comfort them, then went on in search of a home that had never known sorrow.

But wherever she turned, in hovels and in palaces, she found one tale after another of sadness and misfortune.

Ultimately, she became so involved in ministering to other people's grief that she forgot about her quest for the magical mustard seed, never realizing that it had, in fact, driven the sorrow out of her life.

Nobody knows better than the associates of Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home of the suffering and sadness that people experience. They see it in the residents they serve. They see it in the families who come to the facility to visit with their loved ones. They see it in each other.

We all have trials and tribulations intersecting with our lives.

But our associates have also learned, with comfort and thanksgiving, the joy and inner peace derived from ministering to others.

It's what motivates them to daily deliver the care and the compassion required of those entrusted to them.

– Beecher Hunter