

Seeking a Mustard Seed

There once lived a woman who had lost her only son and was consumed by grief. During her bereavement, she visited the holy man of her village. She begged him to cast a spell, create a potion or use his powers to bring her son back to life.

“What kind of a charlatan does she take me for?” thought the holy man. He looked deeply into the woman’s sad eyes and recalled a time when he, too, had mourned the loss of a loved one. He understood her pain and decided to help.

“Fetch me a mustard seed from a home that has never known sorrow,” he said to the woman. “We will use it to drive the sorrow out of your life.”

During her quest, the woman arrived at the house of a widower. “I am looking for a home that has never known sorrow,” she said to the elderly man. “Is this such a place?”

The man shook his head no, and recounted the tragic details of his life. After listening to his tale, the woman felt compelled to comfort the heartbroken widower, and stayed awhile. Together they shared insights about life and stories of their loved ones until the woman realized it was time for her to press on.

So the woman continued her search for the mustard seed, traveling throughout the village and neighboring countryside. In every home she visited, she found people in some stage of mourning, and each time she was filled with compassion and a desire to reach out and offer assistance.

After a while, she forgot that she was hunting for the antidote to her sorrows. In fact, she began to forget the pain of her sorrows altogether, for her grieving had now become a mission of healing.

While we may not be seeking a mustard seed, we have discovered in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home the joy of helping others in their struggles, despite the adversity that may come our way.

--Beecher Hunter