

The Ant and the Contact Lens

Brenda Foltz of Princeton, Minnesota, has written about an event that occurred during her first rock-climbing experience. Although she was scared to death, this young woman went with her group to a tremendous granite cliff.

In spite of her fear, she put on the gear, took a hold on the rope, and started up the face of that rock. Well, she got to a ledge where she could take a breather. As she was hanging on there, the safety rope snapped against Foltz's eye and knocked out her contact lens. Here she was, on a rock ledge, with hundreds of feet below her and hundreds of feet above her. Of course, she looked and looked and looked, hoping the lens had landed on the ledge, but it just wasn't there.

Far from home, her sight now blurry, Foltz was desperate and began to get upset. She prayed and asked the Lord to help her find the lens. When she got to the top, a friend examined her eye and clothing for the lens, but there was no contact lens to be found. She sat down, despondent, waiting for the rest of the party to make it up the face of the cliff.

She looked out across range after range of mountains, thinking of that Bible verse that says, "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole Earth." She thought, "Lord, You can see all these mountains. You know every stone and leaf, and You know exactly where my contact lens is. Please help me."

Finally, Foltz and her friends walked down the trail to the bottom. There they met a new party of climbers just starting up the face of the cliff. One of them shouted out, "Hey, you guys! Anybody lose a contact lens?"

That would be startling enough, but why did the climber see it? An ant was moving slowly across the face of the rock, carrying the lens.

Foltz's father is a cartoonist. When she told him the story of the ant, the prayer and the contact lens, he drew a picture of an ant lugging that contact lens with the words, "Lord, I don't know why you want me to carry this thing. I can't eat it, and it's awfully heavy. But if this is what you want me to do, I'll carry it for you."

For those of us in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home, the Lord may sometimes call upon us to bear burdens for reasons we do not understand, but which ultimately prove beneficial to ourselves or to others. It would do us good to occasionally say, "God, I don't know why you want me to carry this load. Sometimes, I don't see the good in it, and it's awfully heavy. But if You want me to carry it, I will."

--Beecher Hunter