

## The Lion's Hair

In his book, *The Moral Compass*, William Bennett – U.S. Secretary of Education under President Ronald Reagan – relays an Ethiopian folk tale about a wife's determination to do absolutely anything in order to cure the ills of her marriage.

When the wife reaches her wits end, she goes to a local judge to ask for a divorce.

"Why?" asked the old man. "You've been married barely a year. Don't you love your husband?"

"Yes, but it's just not working out," she replied. "We fight a lot. He does things that bother me. We just can't live together."

"I see," said the old man. "Perhaps I can help you. I know of a magic medicine that will make the two of you get along much better. If I give it to you, will you put aside these thoughts of divorce?"

"Yes!" cried the woman. "Give it to me."

"To make the medicine," he said, "I must have a single hair from the tail of a fierce lion that lives down by the river. You must bring it to me."

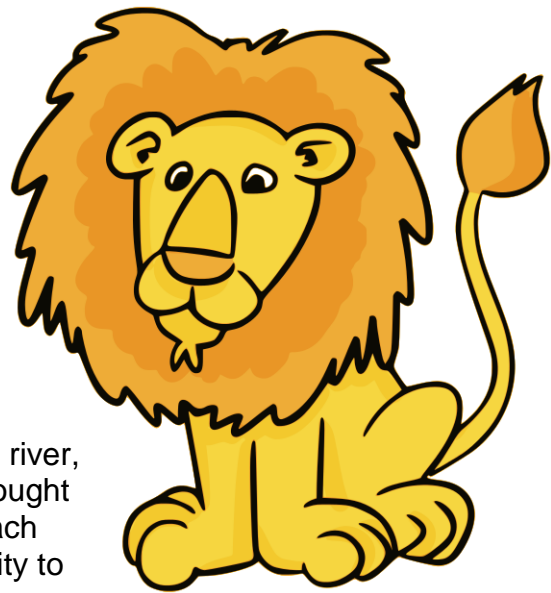
The woman thought long and hard. She loved her husband very much. The magic medicine might save their marriage. She resolved to get the hair, no matter what.

Each day, the woman persistently returned to the river, waiting near a rock for the lion. Each day, she brought meat for the lion and tempted him ever closer. Each day, she patiently waited for the perfect opportunity to snatch the hair from the lion's tail.

Finally, she was able to feed the beast from her hand. It was then that she pulled a single hair from the lion's tail. She hurried back to the judge.

"This is a brave thing you have done," he said. "It took a great deal of patience and resolve."

"Yes," said the woman. "Now give me the medicine to make my marriage better!"



(more)

“I have already given you all the medicine you need,” the old man advised. “You were determined to do whatever it took, however long it took, to gain a magic remedy. But there is no magic remedy. There is only your determination. If you give your marriage the same patience, resolve and courage you showed in getting this hair, you will be happy for a long time.”

Just as that advice was applied to a marriage, it also extends to other areas of our lives, including the careers in which we are engaged. Oftentimes, we look for the easy answer when faced with a challenge and spend an inordinate amount of time and effort to find it. But if we work as hard doing what we need to do, what we know to do, as we do to find that easy answer, the proper answer will come to us.

We don't need magic; just a willingness to do the hard work and follow God's instructions with determination.

*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13 NKJV).*

– Beecher Hunter