

The Stranger on the Tracks

The British express train raced through the night, its powerful headlamp spearing the black darkness ahead. The train was carrying Queen Victoria (1819 – 1901).

Suddenly, the engineer saw a startling sight. Revealed in the beam of the engine's headlights was a weird figure in a black cloak, standing in the middle of the tracks and waving its arms. The engineer grabbed for the brakes and brought the train to a grinding halt.

He and his fellow crewmen climbed out to see what had stopped them. They could find no trace of the strange figure.

On a hunch, the engineer walked a few yards farther up the tracks. What he found stopped him in his tracks as he stared into the fog with horror. A bridge had been washed out and had fallen into a swollen stream. If he had not heeded the ghostly figure, the train would have plunged into the river.

While the bridge and tracks were being repaired, the crew made a more intensive search for the strange flagman. Not until they got to London did they solve the mystery.

At the base of the engine's headlamp was a huge moth. The engineer looked at it for a moment, then on impulse wet its wings and pasted it to the glass of the lamp. Climbing back into his cab, he switched on the lamp and saw the "phantom flagman" in the beam.

He knew what had happened: the moth had flown into the beam seconds before the train reached the washed-out bridge. In the fog, it appeared to be the phantom figure waving its arms.



When Queen Victoria was told of the strange happening, she said, "I'm sure it was no accident. It was God's way of protecting us."

Have there been unexplainable events happen to you? Possibly you narrowly avoided injury or death because of a near accident in an automobile or on a boat. Perhaps you were rescued at the last moment from a perilous fall. Maybe an unexpected intervention in a health crisis spared your life.

We serve a God who does intervene in the lives of human beings.

And we can be grateful for His love and His mercy.

– Beecher Hunter