

The Trouble Tree

A young couple hired a carpenter to help them restore an old farmhouse. During a rough first day on the job, a flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric saw quit, and, finally, his ancient truck refused to start when it was time for him to go home.

While the couple drove him home, the carpenter sat in stony silence. Upon arriving, he invited them in to meet his family. As the threesome walked toward the front door, the carpenter paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of its branches. As he opened the door to his home, the carpenter underwent an amazing transformation. His tanned face relaxed. He smiled and hugged his two small children and kissed his wife.

Afterward, he walked the couple to their car. They passed the tree, and the husband asked, "Why did you touch the tree like that earlier?"

"Oh, that's my trouble tree," the carpenter replied. "I can't help having troubles on the job, but troubles don't belong in our home. So I hang them up on the tree every night. In the morning, I pick them up again."

A smile crossed his face. "Funny thing, though. When I come out in the morning, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before."

Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
Isaiah 41:10

--Beecher Hunter