

Walking Across the River

A traveler sat by a deep, swiftly flowing river, trying to figure out how to get across. He was having little luck when three wizards came up.



They stopped on the bank and pulled out a wineskin. The first wizard took a drink and proceeded to walk across the surface of the water to the other side.

The second wizard did the same. Just as the third wizard was about to cross, the traveler said, "May I have a drink of that wine?" The wizard handed over the skin and crossed the river.

The traveler took a long pull and stepped confidently onto the water, only to sink and flounder desperately before he regained the shore.

"Hey," he shouted to the wizards, "why didn't that wine work for me?"

"The wine's fine," a wizard called back. "But if you'd told us you wanted to cross, we'd have told you where the rocks just below the surface were."

At least three lessons from this story:

1. If something appears too good to be true, then maybe it is.
2. For situations we may not understand, never hesitate to ask questions.
3. Basing a decision on your initial observations can be a little risky.

– Beecher Hunter