

STORY #57

*A one-rupee note, a five-rupee note, a ten-rupee note, a fifty-rupee note, a hundred rupee-note, a thousand-rupee note, are all called notes. But they don't have the same value. Similarly, everyone's compassion is called compassion, but they don't have the same value. The compassion of a mighty person is like a valuable currency note from which a suffering person receives much benefit.*

THE MIGHTY KING SAVES A BOY

ONCE UPON A TIME a King was having a new palace built on a section of his estate. Whenever he found time he would walk alone to the site and check on the progress of his new palace.

One day while inspecting the site, the King heard a child crying.

The foundation of the palace had a basement. The staircase down to the basement wasn't finished yet, so the masons used a ladder which they removed at the end of each day.

The eight year-old son of a carpenter had been playing at the site and had fallen asleep in the basement. When it was time to go home, his father didn't see his son and had assumed the boy had already gone home.

When the boy awoke, he found no one around and no way to climb out; so he cried for help in a pathetic voice.

The King heard him. The heartrending cries of the child melted his heart. Guessing that this was a workman's son, the King decided to rescue the boy, himself, rather than wait for one of his subordinates and order him to do the task.

The King approached the boy, knelt down in the dust and extended his own hand. The child grasped the King's hand and the King lifted the boy out of the basement.

Just then the King's chief minister arrived and witnessed the scene. The minister was touched by the King's empathy.

“Your Excellency!” He said. “You’re so compassionate and this child is so fortunate! You have voluntarily extended your hand of royal support to this fortunate child. This is the same hand, the same royal support, that thousands of people every day are striving to obtain.”

In Indian marriage ceremonies the bridegroom accepts the hand of the bride. The bridegroom’s gesture symbolizes his deepest feelings and acceptance of his bride’s heart, love, and life. When the Lord, Guru, or King accepts someone’s hand, it’s similarly symbolic. In such instances, they shower grace or bestow blessings on the person.

“Find this child’s father,” the King said. “Have the state arrange to pay for his studies, marriage, living expenses, and every other possible need.”

Thus an ordinary event turned into an extraordinary occasion.