

1) A Gift for My Mother

Three brothers left home for college, and they became successful doctors and lawyers and prospered. Some years later, they discussed the gifts that they were able to give to their elderly mother, who lived far away in another city.

The first said: "I had a big house built for Mama".

The second said: "I had a hundred thousand dollar theater built in the house".

The third said: "Listen to this. You know how Mama loved reading the Bible and you know she can't read it anymore because she can't see very well. I met this monk who told me about a parrot that can recite the entire Bible. It took 20 monks 12 years to teach him. I had to pledge them \$100,000 a year for 20 years to the church, but it was worth it. Mama just has to name the chapter and verse and the parrot will recite it." The other brothers were impressed.

After the holidays Mama sent out her Thank You notes. She wrote: "Dear Milton, the house you built is so huge, I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house. Thanks anyway.

Dear Mike, you gave me an expensive theater, it could hold 50 people, but all my friends are dead, I've lost my hearing and I'm nearly blind. I'll never use it. But thank you for the gesture just the same.

Dearest Melvin, you were the only son to have the good sense to give a little thought to your gift. The chicken was delicious. Thank you..."

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2) The Eagle

Did you know that an eagle knows when a storm is approaching long before it breaks?

The eagle will fly to some high spot and wait for the winds to come.

When the storm hits, it sets its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm.

While the storm rages below, the eagle is soaring above it.

The eagle does not escape the storm.

It simply uses the storm to lift it higher.

It rises on the winds that bring the storm.

When the storms of life come upon us -and all of us will experience them- we can rise above them by setting our minds and our belief toward God.

The storms do not have to overcome us.

We can allow God's power to lift us above them.

God enables us to ride the winds of the storm that bring sickness, tragedy, failure and disappointment in our lives.

We can soar above the storm.

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3) An Innocent Question

One day Danny went with his father to a zoo. He was very excited to see different types of birds and animals. After a while, they came in front of the cage of a lion. Danny's father told him how ferocious and strong lions are. Danny was listening very attentively.

Finally, he spoke up, "Dad, if somehow the lion comes out of the cage and eats you up, then how will I get back home?"

Danny's father laughed at the innocent question of the son.

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3) Talking Frog

An older gentleman was playing a round of golf. Suddenly his ball sliced and landed in a shallow pond. As he was attempting to retrieve the ball he discovered a frog that, to his great surprise, started to speak! "Kiss me, and I will change into a beautiful princess, and I will be yours for a week." He picked up the frog and placed it in his pocket.

As he continued to play golf, the frog repeated its message. "Kiss me, and I will change into a beautiful princess, and I will be yours for a whole month!" The man continued to play his golf game and once again the frog spoke out. "Kiss me, and I will change into a beautiful princess, and I will be yours for a whole year!" Finally, the old man turned to the frog and exclaimed, "At my age, I'd rather have a talking frog."

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4) The Lifetime

A 45-year-old woman had a heart attack and was taken to the hospital. While on the operating table she had a near death experience. Seeing God she asked "Is my time up?" God said, "No, you have another 43 years, 2 months and 8 days to live.

"Upon recovery, the woman decided to stay in the hospital and have a Face-lift, liposuction, breast implants and a tummy tuck. She even had someone come in and change her hair color and brighten her teeth!

Since she had so much more time to live, she figured she might as well make the most of it. After her last operation, she was released from the hospital.

While crossing the street on her way home, she was killed by an ambulance. Arriving in front of God, she demanded, "I thought you said I had another 43 years? Why didn't you pull me from out of the path of the ambulance?"

God replied: "I didn't recognize you.

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5) The Hare and the Mouse

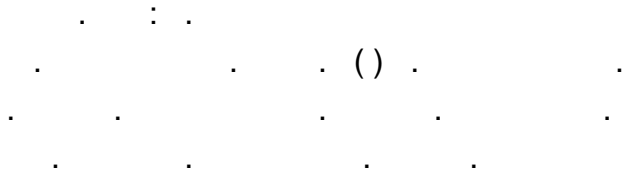
Once there was a magpie who realized that one of his most prized coins was missing. So he called the best detectives in the forest: the hare and the mouse.

The mouse was a bit cleverer and shrewder than the hare; so, following the clues and using his reasoning powers, soon led him to the great labyrinth of tunnels under the forest. On entering, he saw Mr. Mole, but the mouse was very shy, so he said nothing to the mole about why he was there, and he carried on looking for the missing coin.

The hare was also a great detective, and, before long, he too arrived at the labyrinth. He was not a bit shy, and the first thing he did was gone and asks the mole if he knew where the coin was. The mole was all too pleased to lead the hare to the coin. That coin had been bothering the mole for months, getting in the way of his tunneling.

So the hare took the coin and collected his reward. The mouse, who had been watching all this, learned a lot from it. From then on he would never allow shyness to undo all his good work. This approach soon turned him into the best inspector in the forest

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6) The Malentendu

As she would need to wait many hours, she decided to buy a book to spend her time. She also bought a packet of cookies. She sat down in an armchair, in the VIP room of the airport, to rest and read in peace. Beside the armchair where the packet of cookies lay, a man sat down in the next seat, opened his magazine and started reading.

When she took out the first cookie, the man took one also. She felt irritated but said nothing. She just thought: "What a nerve! If I was in the mood I would punch him for daring!" For each cookie she took, the man took one too. This was infuriating her but she didn't want to cause a scene.

When only one cookie remained, she thought: "ah... What these abusive man do now?" Then, the man, taking the last cookie, divided it into half, giving her one half. Ah! That was too much! She was much too angry now! In a huff, she took her book, her things and stormed to the boarding place.

When she sat down in her seat, inside the plane, she looked into her purse to take her eyeglasses, and, to her surprise, her packet of cookies was there, untouched, unopened! She felt so ashamed!! She realized that she was wrong... She had forgotten that her cookies were kept in her purse.

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7) Opportunity

A man with a gun goes into a bank and demands their money.

Once he is given the money, he turns to a customer and asks, 'Did you see me rob this bank?'

The man replied, 'Yes sir, I did.'

The robber then shot him in the temple , killing him instantly.

He then turned to a couple standing next to him and asked the man, 'Did you see me rob this bank?'

The man replied, 'No sir, I didn't, but my wife did!'

Moral: When Opportunity knocks.... MAKE USE OF IT!

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8) The Statue

General Pershing was a famous American officer. He was in the American army, and fought in Europe in the First World War.

After he died, some people in his home town wanted to remember him, so they' put up a big statue of him on a horse.

There was a school near the statue, and some of the boys passed it every day on their way to school and again on their way home. After a few months some of them began to say, 'Good morning, Pershing', whenever they passed the statue, and soon all the boys at the school were doing this.

One Saturday one of the smallest of these boys was walking to the shops with his mother when he passed the statue. He said, 'Good morning, Pershing' to it, but then he stopped and said to his mother, 'I like Pershing very much, Mama, but who's that funny man on his back?'

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9) A Glass of Milk

One day, a poor boy who was selling goods from door to door to pay his way through school, found he had only one thin dime left, and he was very hungry. He decided he would ask for a meal at the next house. However, he lost his nerve when a lovely young woman opened the door.

Instead of a meal he asked for a drink of water. She thought he looked hungry so brought him a large glass of milk.

He drank it so slowly, and then asked, "How much do I owe you?" "You don't owe me anything," she replied. "Mother has taught us never to accept pay for a kindness." He said ... "Then I thank you from my heart."

Many years later that same young woman became critically ill. The local doctors were baffled. They finally sent her to the big city, where they called in specialists to study her rare disease. Dr. Howard Kelly was called in for the consultation. When he heard the name of the town she

came from, a strange light filled his eyes. Immediately he rose and went down the hall of the hospital to her room...

From that day, Dr. Kelly gave special attention to her case. After a long struggle, the battle was won. Dr. Kelly requested the business office to pass the final bill to him for approval. He looked at it, and then wrote something on the edge and the bill was sent to her room. She feared to open it, for she was sure it would take the rest of her life to pay for it all. Finally she looked, and something caught her attention on the side of the bill. She read these words:

"Paid in full with one glass of milk"

(Signed) Dr. Howard Kelly.

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10) God, speak to me

The man whispered, "God, speak to me" and a meadowlark sang .But, the man did not hear. So the man yelled, "God, speak to me" and the thunder rolled across the sky .But, the man did not listen. The man looked around and said, "God let me see you." And a star shone brightly .But the man did not see.

And, the man shouted, "God show me a miracle." And, a life was born .But, the man did not notice. So, the man cried out in despair, "Touch me God, and let me know you are here." Whereupon, God reached down and touched the man .But, the man brushed the butterfly away, and walked on...

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