

The Timid Knight.

There was once a timid knight who had to go on a long journey to carry a message for his king. He began to think about the journey and what he should take. He imagined all the places he might pass and the problems he might meet at them. So he put on his armour and laid out his sword and shield to carry, as he would probably meet unfriendly strangers. Then he loaded his horse with an axe to chop firewood, a jar of ointment in case of sunburn, food for himself and oats for the horse, and many other things, including a tent, blankets, pots and pans. Eventually he was ready to go, so with great difficulty he mounted his horse and away they went, a moving pile of junk!

After a while he came to a rickety old bridge and very cautiously he began to cross it. When he was half way across, the bridge could take the weight no longer and it collapsed. The knight and his horse were swept away by the river, and he was not seen again, because he had forgotten a very important thing, his lifejacket!

It seems that we can overburden ourselves with thinking about troubles that may not happen, but the future can provide us with troubles that we could never guess.

The moral of the story is that he who travels with Faith travels lightest and safest. If only the knight had known these words of Bahá'u'lláh he would have probably been able to deliver the message safely:

“When he determineth to leave his home, for the sake of the Cause of His Lord, let him put his whole trust in God, as the best provision for his journey, and array himself with the robe of virtue.”

Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh, CLVII.

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