

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday February 24, 2025 - Jude 1: 20-21

20 *But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit,*

21 *keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.*

Read Jude 1 for meditation and inspiration.

The Four Trees



Dear Lakesiders and friends,

Today I thought it would be good to share the thoughts of another story which could allow us to pause and think about our individual unique calling to be God's disciple where we are planted.

The Four Trees

Author: Dhamma Tapasa* (Andrew Hallas)

Once upon a time in a land not too far away, four trees started to grow on top of a small hill. Three of the trees were very selfish, arrogant and proud trees, always boasting how big and tall they would become, teasing each other about how they would live forever. The fourth tree was very happy and content, just to be a tree.

As time passed the three proud and selfish trees spent all their days growing as tall and impressive as they could, boasting each and every day how wonderful they would be. The fourth tree listened but was happy and content, just to be a tree.

The Moral of the Story

Many years passed and the three trees looked very impressive and had grown straight and tall, but they also had grown ever more arrogant, selfish and proud, boasting and teasing constantly how they were each better than the others and how surely, they would now live forever. The fourth tree wasn't the best looking or the tallest but was still happy and content, just to be a tree.

Then a woodcutter came along and cut the three proud, arrogant trees down to the ground. The first tree was made into the City Gates, the second tree into a Great Warship and the third tree into a Great Place of Worship. Each of the three trees were proud and happy of their new position in society, boasting that they were each better than the others and how they really would live forever. The fourth tree was just happy and content, just to be a tree.

Then a great army came to attack, and the City Gates were destroyed, the great Warship was sunk in the harbor and the Great Place of Worship was burnt to the ground. Only the fourth tree survived growing on the hill happy and content, just to be a tree.

The fourth tree knew that it could not live forever, that the day must come when the fourth tree would too pass away, but not before it would set seed to Four new little Trees growing on that hill, all Happy and Content, Just To Be a tree!

Be content, grateful and at peace!

For your journey in faith,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roger".

Roger