

Living a Life of Faith in God

This sketch is based on a story from a book entitled "Modern Parables" by S.E.Petts, published by Henry E. Walter Ltd 1971.

Cast:

Storytellers (the story can be broken down into parts depending on children available)

Sundar (needs to be dressed in thin robe & have bare feet)

Tibetan Trader (needs thick outdoor coat, boots, gloves, scarf & hat)

First Casualty

4 Travellers (need to be dressed for a cold walk outdoors)

The mountain pass is a strip of white about two feet wide down the centre of the hall. A white sheet to cover the casualties on this pass. Depending on length of hall one might have to explain that for this to work the principal characters have to seem to come back the same way when in fact it is really a straight path. The characters must act out what the storyteller(s) are saying. It is vital that balance is kept whilst on the path to give the illusion of a precipice.

Storyteller(s)

Sadu Sundar Singh was Indian by birth and became a Christian Missionary travelling many miles on foot telling people about Jesus in Northern India, Tibet and Nepal among the Himalayan Mountains. Sundar had faith in God that he would protect him and help him on these difficult journeys.

Sundar had very little to call his own because he gave away his money to help the poor and needy. Sundar had a thin robe but travelled without any shoes.

Sundar set out to travel from Nepal into Tibet. The track was a difficult one, the higher you went the narrower it became until it was no more than a goat track. On one side the mountain soared high too steep to climb without ropes, on the other side an almost vertical drop of a few thousand feet. Snowstorms were not uncommon on this track even in summer, yet despite the hazards many people travelled this path.

Though it was a summer's day there was a snowstorm as Sundar reached the track through the mountains. At that same time a Tibetan trader caught Sundar up. He was on his way home after selling yak skins to the Nepalese. He had travelled this way many times and was suitably dressed for the cold with thick coat and heavy boots.

A group of people coming the other way down the track warned them of the difficulties ahead.

Traveller 1: "The path ahead is blocked, we had a struggle to get round it"

Traveller 2: "At the top of the pass there must be a foot of snow"

Traveller 3: "You'll struggle to get across the pass to Ranget village before it comes dark"

Traveller 4: “You’d be better off turning back and going another day.”

Storyteller: Looking at Sundar one member of the group said,

Traveller 4: “You must be mad to travel like that, you will freeze to death”

Sundar: “God is with me He will protect me and see I arrive.”

Storyteller: The group left the two men who decided to travel the track together. Sundar told the trader about Jesus and how he lived his life helping others, but the Tibetan trader replied,

Tibetan Trader: “It’s every man for himself in this world.”

Storyteller: Soon they came to where the path was blocked by a large mound covered in snow. The trader squeezed past but Sundar started scraping at the snow and discovered a person who had been overcome by the cold. Sundar called the trader to help him.

Tibetan Trader: “It’s too late to help him, he’ll die anyway, and if we stop to help we too risk dying because we will not reach Ranget before it becomes dark.”

Sundar: “But he is a fellow human being.”

Tibetan Trader: “Take my advice, forget your Christian ways, leave him and save yourself.”

Storyteller: At this point the trader continued his journey.

Sundar refused to follow suit. He prayed for God’s strength to help him, and with great difficulty Sundar managed to get the person on to his back.

(It is vital whilst performing this action that you do not go off the path)

(PAUSE)

The weight slowed him down but the extra effort helped Sundar to feel warm, and gradually the heat of Sundar’s body started to creep into the body of the person on his back. Gradually the person Sundar was carrying started to revive.

After a few miles the person was able to walk again with help from Sundar’s arm.

Hours later, just as they came into sight of the lights of Ranget village, they tripped over a man lying covered in the snow. It was the Tibetan trader who had refused to stop and help, and now overcome by cold was unable to move by himself.

First Casualty: “We cannot leave him here to die, will you help me to carry him into Ranget village.”

Sundar smiled, said a prayer, and then helped his new found friend to carry the trader down to the village.

(Again the actions taken must not fall outside of the bounds of the path)

(PAUSE)

This friend asked Sundar why he had stopped to help him.

Sundar: “Because that is what Jesus wants us to do, to show love to those who are in need.”

First Casualty: “But you could have died in your attempt to save me”

Sundar: “Jesus did die in his attempt to save us from going the wrong way in life. He wants us to put our faith and trust in him, and when we do he will be with us to help us to live our lives the right way, caring for others.