**Naaman’s Leprosy**

*(2 Kings 5, King James Version)*

STORYTELLER  
Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, but he was a leper. And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman’s wife. And she said unto her mistress.

SERVANT GIRL

Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy.

STORYTELLER  
And one went in, and told his lord, saying.

SERVANT

Thus and thus said the maid that is of the land of Israel.

STORYTELLER  
And the king of Syria said.

KING OF SYRIA

Go to, go, and I will send a letter unto the king of Israel.

STORYTELLER

And he departed, and took with him ten talents of silver, and six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of raiment. And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying.

KING OF SYRIA

Now when this letter is come unto thee, behold, I have therewith sent Naaman my servant to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy.

STORYTELLER  
And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said.

KING OF ISRAEL

Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me.

STORYTELLER  
And it was so, when Elisha the man of God had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying.

GEHAZI

Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.

STORYTELLER  
So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying.

GEHAZI

Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean.

STORYTELLER  
But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said.

NAMAAN

Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper. Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean?

STORYTELLER

So he turned and went away in a rage. And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said.

SERVANT

My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?

STORYTELLER  
Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said.

NAMAAN

Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant.

STORYTELLER  
But he said.

ELISHA

As the LORD liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none.

STORYTELLER

And he urged him to take it; but he refused. And Naaman said.

NAMAAN

Shall there not then, I pray thee, be given to thy servant two mules’ burden of earth? for thy servant will henceforth offer neither burnt offering nor sacrifice unto other gods, but unto the LORD. In this thing the LORD pardon thy servant, that when my master goeth into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leaneth on my hand, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon: when I bow down myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon thy servant in this thing.

STORYTELLER

And he said unto him.

ELISHA

Go in peace.

STORYTELLER

So he departed from him a little way. But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said.

GEHAZI

Behold, my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: but, as the LORD liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him.

STORYTELLER

So Gehazi followed after Naaman. And when Naaman saw him running after him, he lighted down from the chariot to meet him, and said.

NAMAAN

Is all well?

STORYTELLER

And he said.

GEHAZI

All is well. My master hath sent me, saying, Behold, even now there be come to me from mount Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets: give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of garments.

STORYTELLER  
And Naaman said.

NAMAAN

Be content, take two talents.

STORYTELLER

And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and laid them upon two of his servants; and they bare them before him. And when he came to the tower, he took them from their hand, and bestowed them in the house: and he let the men go, and they departed. But he went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him.

ELISHA

Whence comest thou, Gehazi?

STORYTELLER

And he said.

GEHAZI

Thy servant went no whither.

STORYTELLER

And he said unto him.

ELISHA

Went not mine heart with thee, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee? Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and oliveyards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants? The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever.

STORYTELLER

And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.

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