

**THE SLUGGISH GIRL - AFRICAN STORY**

Dear Friends,

A young girl was carrying a heavy bucket on her head. She walked very slowly and very calmly down the busy road. She minded her own business and focused on her destination.

Everyone wondered why she walked so slowly. The people behind her were going so fast that they passed her. The children returning from the stream with buckets on their heads had all passed her. Some of the children laughed and mocked her for being too slow. One of them said,

"Do you know what time it is, lazybones? You're so slow and sluggish! I wonder how long it will take before you reach your home."

However, the girl was apparently unconcerned about what the children said and she kept walking home. A short while later, two women saw her and started teasing her,

"Didn't your mother teach you the importance of hard work? Just a small bucket of water, yet you move like a snail. Why can't you walk just as fast as the other children who are also returning from the stream? Some of them carry buckets heavier than yours. You're so slow!"

Upon hearing that, the young girl remained silent and paid attention to her journey. However, she hadn't gone far when an old man stopped her and said hastily,

"Hey, hurry! Don't let those children walk faster than you. You all carry the same size of buckets. You should compete with them and make sure you get home before them. Be fast!"

The girl smiled faintly at the old man, but said nothing and kept on walking. The old man stood for a while, wondering what that odd behaviour could mean. Meanwhile, as the girl walked along the road, she kept hearing people talking and screaming at her,

"Run, run, run as fast as you can! The other children are far ahead of you. You don't want to let them reach home before you. Hurry up!"

But regardless of what people said, the young girl was indifferent to everyone and continued crawling along. Then, suddenly, an old woman approached her and asked in a calm tone,

"Young girl, why do you walk so slowly? Is your bucket of water that heavy? The other children are way ahead of you..."

The girl paused for a moment, then with a gentle smile on her face, she whispered surprisingly,

"What I carry on my head is not water. They are eggs, a bunch of eggs. I cannot walk as fast as those children who are carrying water. The road is bad, although if they fall, their water spills, but if I fall, my eggs break. A bunch of eggs is worth more than a bucket of water. I can't compete with them because we do not carry the same load. That's how life is; we always feel the need to compete with another person without realizing that we carry different loads and we have different dreams and ambitions. Some paths are rather meant to be walked on slowly. Instead of playing to win, I'm playing not to lose. As long as I'll reach home with all my eggs intact, I don't care how many children are ahead of me."

**MORAL LESSON: Do not compete with anyone. Just focus on your journey and keep moving. The load you carry is different from that of others.**

No church of God on earth should think of competing with one another, or think more highly than the others. We are all different but with one goal to get to our eternal home. Reflect on the letter of Paul to the Romans 12 verse 3.

"For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned." Amen.

Remember, to bear one another in prayer. Let us think, read from the page of our Christian Journey.

God bless our churches.

Devotedly Yours,  
Uncle George

### **Good News**

Wedding bells will be ringing soon in the first weekend of May at the Stoughton Methodist Church. A joy to be celebrated, after a long period of such celebrations in that Church. Congratulations to Joseph and Andrea in advance. God bless their union. Pray with them.

Enjoy this wonderful piece of music with a touch. We all hold one different flag aimed at being the body of a nation and serving and loving one another. Thank you.

<https://youtu.be/0gvCODgV1fc?si=Re4Nd5SftyQRkiyA>

### **Surrey Day - Saturday 11 May 2024**

A celebration of all that is great about the county, Surrey Day is set to return for a sixth year to bring the area's towns, villages and attractions together in recognition of this fantastic location.

Surrey Day is a huge, inclusive initiative to which everyone is invited! For more information visit

[Surrey Day 2024](#)

### **Upcoming Circuit Events**

11 May	10am to 12 noon	Christian Aid Plant Sale & Woking Repair Café	Trinity, Woking
12 to 18 May		Christian Aid Week	
18 May	2.00pm to 4.00pm	Clothes4U	Knaphill
19 May	4.00pm	Pudding and Praise	Walton-on-Thames
23 May	10.30 to 12 noon	Coffee and Cake	St. Mary's Guildford
25 May	10am to 12 noon	Coffee Morning	Knaphill