

"...to help other people at all times..."

This is about one of the parts of the Scout Oath we should all live in our everyday lives. "...to help other people at all times..."

This is an old story of the missionary Sadhu Sundar Singh.

He was traveling through the Himalayas with a Monk in the bitter cold. Night was coming and the Monk said, "If we don't reach the monastery by nightfall, we are in danger of freezing to death." Just as they reached a narrow path, they heard the cries of a man who had fallen over the edge. The Monk said, "Do not stop. God has brought him to his fate. He must work it out himself."

Sadhu replied, "God sent me here to help my brother. I cannot abandon him." The Monk disagreeing with Sadhu's decision said to him, "Then you will be brought to the same fate." The Monk went on and Sadhu climbed down a steep path.

When he found the man, he saw that his leg was badly broken and he could not walk. Sadhu made a sling from his blanket and tied the man to his back. He then began a body torturing climb back up the mountain and back to the path leading to the Monastery. He made his way through the deepening snow. It was dark, and it was all he could do to follow the path. Nonetheless, he pushed on and persevered, faint with exhaustion, he finally saw the lights of the Monastery. As he moved closer toward the light, he stumbled for the first time and nearly fell to the ground. He did not stumble from exhaustion, but over an object. As he brushed the snow off the object, he looked down and saw that it was the body of the Monk that he was originally traveling with that had left him behind earlier.

The man tied to his back, ever grateful said with much pain, I am sorry that your friend is not with us, for it is because of me, he is no longer.

As the years past, Sadhu was always saddened when he thought about that event and of the Monks passing. Years later, when he became a University Professor, one of his students hearing this tale of selflessness, asked him, "What is life's most difficult task?" he replied, "To have no burden to carry."