

THE THREE VISITORS

It was late morning and the day was already growing oppressively hot. The blinding sun felt like burning coals on my skin, so I decided it was time to move the animals from the pasture to the protective shade of the great oak trees. I was so busy with my task that I almost didn't hear my master calling me.

My master was reclining by the entrance of his tent and asked me to keep him company, but I suspected he wanted me to have some rest. I could tell my master was in pain, and like him, I was also feeling some discomfort. Just three days ago my master had made a covenant with God, and our bodies were sore from the physical wound of our promise.

The air felt stale and heavy and I was beginning to feel tired and sluggish. As I gazed into the distance, I saw three figures coming closer and closer. I quickly alerted my master who got up and ordered me to start making preparations to properly receive the travelers.

When they arrived my master walked outside to welcome them to his camp. I quickly began to attend to the visitors needs while my master went to the women's tent to alert my mistress. I then saw him heading to the shade of the oaks to get a nice fat calf for slaughter.

I brought the visitors fresh water so they could quench their thirst and wash the dust off their feet. As I was attending to the visitors, a strange feeling came over me. I didn't know what it was about these strangers, but they made me feel so comfortable and at ease in their presence that an unexplainable feeling of serenity and wellbeing came over me. I found myself chatting with them and asking questions that I wouldn't have dared at any other time or with anyone else.

Astonishing, I felt that they also were comfortable in my presence and willing to speak with me, a servant. During the course of our conversation I learned their names and the purpose of their journey. The one who seem to be their leader was Michael and the other two were Raphael and Gabriel. The one called Michael said he came to bring good news; the one called Raphael said he came to bring healing; and the one called Gabriel said he came to destroy the wicked.

I really didn't understand the meaning of what they were telling me, but Michael reassured me that I would soon understand. I left them so they could get some rest, and then I joined the other servants to continue with the work that still needed to be done.

The time came when all the preparations were over, and everything was ready for the feast when I heard my master called me.

Eliazer! Eliazer! Eliazer!

Eliazer! Eliazer! Eliazer! Eliazer, wake up!

Eliazer, look in the distance. I see three travelers coming this way. Hurry up; bring some water to receive our visitors.

Cari Paredes

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