



INSIGNIFICANT

Marcus was a kind-hearted youth. He lived in a small house in the village of Mejanagar. Marcus found pleasure in helping others. He served the Queen for a living and had high regard for her. All in all, life was peaceful and satisfying.

It was a sunny morning. As usual, the villagers of Mejanagar went to Alex Street for their respective jobs. These jobs were assigned by the Queen. The jobs were mainly in the food industry. Some were in production, some were in collection, some in transportation, others in communication, and so on. Marcus was in communication. He was doing a very thorough job. He admired the Queen and wanted to impress her.

"Hey, Marcus! How ya today?" It was Tom Uncle. He was quite old, yet hardworking.

"Oh, I am good, Uncle," Marcus replied. "I see you have brought Tina to work today?"

Tom smiled. Tina was his niece. This was the first time Tom was bringing her to work. Someday soon, he hoped, she would also be industrious like him.

"Say, Marcus... Did ya see that huge water tower over there?" Tom pointed to the end of the street. Marcus' eyes followed. Marcus was always wary of big and unpredictable things. This water tower was one of the things that scared him whenever he saw it.

"Yes, Uncle. Let it be there. Let us get back to work," Marcus said.

But as soon as he said it, he saw the look of fear in Tom Uncle's eyes. Marcus turned and looked at the tower again. Sure enough, it was shaking violently.

Oh dear God! It was going to come crashing down!

"Run to safety, everyone!" Marcus shouted as loud as he could.

He was heard by everyone around him. Thank God he was in communication, because he was able to let the warning be known even to those absorbed in their work. They all saw the impending danger and ran as fast as they could, as far as they could.

"The tower is collapsing!" screamed Marcus again.

The street erupted in chaos and panic. Some just stood there, frozen, while others ran through the crowd, desperately looking for a safe place. Marcus suddenly took charge. He alerted his communication army network, and within moments, they evacuated the whole place.

But Marcus could not just run.

Tom Uncle and Tina were standing beside him, too old and too young, and too transfixed to move. Marcus did not think twice. He took Tina on his shoulders, dragged Tom Uncle by his hand and tried to run.

KRAAAASH!

In a split second, the water tower came crashing down.

The street got flooded! The impact threw Tom and Tina far away. Both landed safely. Tina's parents rushed to her. She was very frightened and clung to them. Tom also joined them.

Marcus was just in time to push Tom and Tina to safety, but he could not reach the safe land in time. Two guards rushed into the palace and informed the Queen of the disaster.

"Majesty, the water tower collapsed! The street is flooded. All our food is gone!"

"Is everyone safe?" the Queen asked desperately.



“We think so. Most were able to run. It was all because of Marcus. We were alerted fast and could evacuate in seconds,” the guards told her.

The Queen, still helpless but sighing with a little relief, rushed to the spot along with the guards.

All the villagers were standing there, looking at the crashed tower and the flood. They were staring, trying to control their tears.

That was when the Queen saw it.

The lifeless body of Marcus was floating in the water.

Everyone was silent.

The villagers of Mejanagar had won that day, but at the cost of losing their saviour. They remained silent for a moment to pay respect to their hero.

Marcus’ glory would always be remembered by them.

I came back to my room and found that my water bottle had fallen on the desk and spilled water all over it. The biscuit crumbs I had left on the desk were soaked. I kept the bottle upright.

That was when I spotted a colony of ants circling around the spilled water.

There was a single dead ant floating in the water.

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