

## **Heart Land**

This is the story of a far away place that is really very near to all of us called Heart Land. Heart Land was a country of many towns and cities. The capital of Heart Land was a popular city called Exactitude.

Now Exactitude was a city of the highly educated and the wealthy and it lay in a great infertile valley called Harshness. There were also many other cities found in this valley of Harshness. For example the city of Criticism, which was found in the county of Fault finding? And there was the great city of Haughtiness found in the county of Hate and its sister city Hardness found in the county of Unkindness.

In addition to all these cities there were hundreds of little towns, and townships, in the vast valley of Harshness. And some of the names of these were Unmerciful, Demanding, Envy, Insolent, Self-Assuming to name but a few.

All these cities and townships were connected by roads and freeways, but the greatest of these freeways was an interstate called Unforgiveness. Its surface never wore out because it was made of cold hard steel. And all the people living in the country of Heart Land raced along its smooth hard surface at very high speeds, cutting rudely in front of each other with anger faces.

All that lived in the country of Heart Land lived under the rule of a great and fear giant called Judgment. Old man Giant Judgment had been around since the beginning of Heart Land.

Giant Judgment job was that of judging all the cities, townships, and communities of Heart Land.

Now Mr. Judgment was huge and heartless, his feet were as big as four elephants – apiece and as hard as rock! Everywhere he'd walk the ground would shake and roll pressing down so hard nothing could ever grow there again.

Well, the people of Heart Land lived in fear of Old man Giant Judgment because many times on his way to work he'd take a short cut and his great feet would crush houses, people, families and cars all in the name of judgment.

But there was one place Giant Judgment would never step and this place was found in a very small valley called Humbleness. Humbleness was off the Interstate Unforgiveness on a narrow and cramped road called

forgiveness which lead out of the huge infertile valley of Harshness to a little city called Tender Mercy.

And in this beautiful valley of Humbleness everything grew lush and green, the blue sky always seem to shine and none of the people who lived here ever lived in fear of old man Giant Judgment.

The only time the blue sky and sun would darken over the little city of Tender Mercy was when old man Giant Judgment came to visit. His huge size loomed great over the little city, blocking out the sun and darkening the sky above. Old man Giant Judgment always gently knelt down to watch all the young children of the city of Tender Mercy.

Yes, the little city of Tender Mercy was a city of young children with many streets to roam upon. These streets had such grand names as Goodness, Joy, Friendship, Love, Mercy, Self-Control, Refreshment, Undeserved-Kindness, Brotherly Love, and even Mildness.

Anyone could enter this little city of Tender Mercy because it's people were humble and cared for everyone; no matter how tall or small, age, color, looks, even nationality meant nothing – all were welcome here.

And yes even old man Giant Judgment, accept he was too big! However, any that entered and stayed must become young children because you see all that lived in the city of Tender Mercy lived forever.

Old man Giant Judgment would look at the little children and the beauty of the city until he could bear it no longer then he'd start weeping. His tears would gently fall from the sky over the city and a wonderful miracle would happen. His tears would change into pure refreshing rain that would water the whole valley of Humbleness and the gracious city of Tender Mercy.

Now the little children of the city rejoiced in the refreshing warm rain. Oh how they'd laugh and play until the sun burst through the darkness once more.

And as always a beautiful rainbow appeared – which told the young children old man Judgment had left the little valley of Humbleness once again.

One-day-old man Giant Judgment came very late in the day; after a long hard day of harsh judgments. But somehow this day was different this time the ground cracked, rumbled and rolled outside the little city as never before.

Old man Giant Judgment fell hard on his enormous knees – so hard that two huge holes were dug the size of great lakes. However, the young children inside the city of Tender Mercy never even looked up.

The sky grew forebodingly dark over the city and old man Judgment started to weep and weep, but this time his tears were as cold as ice.

The heavens above the little city cracked wildly with thunder and chains of lightning flashing forth. Waters tumbled downward until Harsh Valley was flooded everywhere. But old man Giant Judgment wouldn't leave; he stayed right on his knees all night looking at the city of Tender Mercy.

When morning finally came the sky were clearer and bluer than anyone could remember. And there in the sky was the most gorgeous double rainbow – which ended right in the city of Tender Mercy.

Now you see, old man Giant Judgment was no more! He had humbled himself so much; he shrunk and was now entering the little city of Tender Mercy.

All the young children of the city ran out to greet him with smiles and open arms.

But with a little trembling voice he said: “oh please wait; you don't understand; well – I, I, was old man Giant Judgment’.

One of the young children then said: “Oh yes we see, but do you? We were all Giant Judgment once; there soon be another then you'll truly see as we that all of us were only a reflection of Harshness Valley true Heart Land.

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