

Who is that coming up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved? Song of Songs 8,5

Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, 'Let me go, for the day is breaking.' But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go, unless you bless me.' So he said to him, 'What is your name?' And he said, 'Jacob.' Then the man said, 'You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.' Then Jacob asked him, 'Please tell me your name.' But he said, 'Why is it that you ask my name?' And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.' The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip. Genesis 32 : 24-31

This must have been the scariest day of Jacob's life. He had consistently cheated on his elder brother Esau and his brother has been waiting to kill him. Now many years later he comes back to his father's land fearing the deadly wrath of his elder brother. But before that encounter he dreaded, God had prepared another surprise encounter for him near the river Jabbok.

Jacob sends his wives and children ahead of him, and he is left alone. Suddenly as though his fears were realized a man starts to wrestle with him. Jacob wrestles for his life, with all his might. He must have thought about all the struggles and battles of his life. But he keeps on fighting, fighting the whole night. When the man touched his hip and he started limping, he must have known it was not a human adversary. And so he clung to him and would not let Him go unless He blessed him. It is at that point, when he fought for his blessing, Jacob the deceiver gets a new name ISRAEL. As the Lord left Jacob we read, "The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip."

Sometimes the Lord allows a sickness, bereavement, a lonely life in other words a limp in our lives so that we could only lean on His grace. It was when Jacob had the limp, the sun rose upon him. Sometimes it is such limps of our lives which make us

have a glimpse of the glory. Only in such limping situations, we grow deeper, we grow intimate with our Father. It is these moments that take us to the Glory of the Father.

If I would never have a limp in my life, a lack, I would probably have never known God in all His tenderness, in all His love and in all His care. I would have never know the support of the everlasting arms underneath. Pain bonds us close to our Father's heart.

Who is that coming from the wilderness leaning on her beloved? When you come to your wilderness, when the spring in your step is gone, remember there is a Beloved by your side, holding you as you come out limping. Look up and see heaven is real and these troubles are momentary and there is a Glory waiting for all of us.

My friend remember there is always a Beloved to lean on when you come out of your wilderness limping. His Name is Jesus and He is alive. Underneath are His everlasting arms.