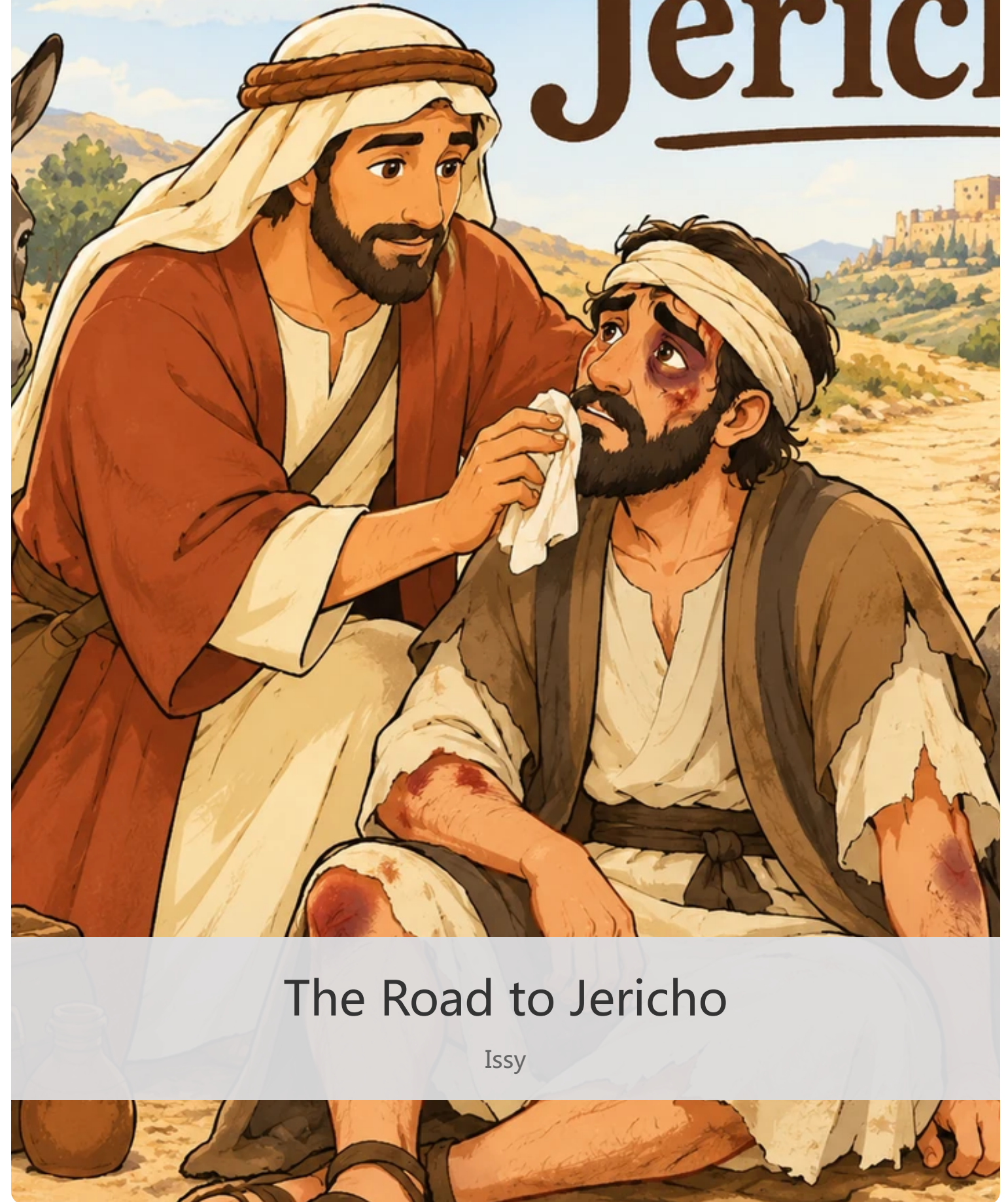


The Road Jerich



The Road to Jericho

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Jonathan walked alone along the winding and sun-scorched desert path that connected the ancient cities of Jerusalem and Jericho. The surrounding rocky cliffs and hidden turns made the journey notoriously dangerous for solo travelers. Suddenly, a group of ruthless bandits emerged from the shadows, ambushing him and taking all his belongings. They beat him severely, leaving him stripped of his clothes and half-dead on the scorching sand.



Hours later, a Jewish priest walked down the very same path and noticed the wounded man lying silently in the dust. Instead of stopping to offer help or comfort, the religious leader deliberately crossed to the far side of the road. He quickened his pace and continued his journey, pretending he had seen nothing at all.



Not long after, a Levite man passed by the tragic scene and drew slightly closer to examine the suffering traveler. He looked down at the bruised and broken body, but a wave of fear and inconvenience washed over him. Choosing his own comfort over another's life, he too walked past and left the man to his fate.



As the afternoon shadows lengthened, a Samaritan traveler came riding down the dusty road toward the spot. When he saw the badly injured stranger, his heart filled with a deep and sudden wave of compassion. Dismounting quickly, he knelt beside the suffering man and gently tended to his bleeding wounds.



The kind Samaritan poured soothing oil and healing wine over the gashes, carefully wrapping them with strips of his own garments. With great gentleness, he lifted the exhausted and helpless man onto his own faithful donkey. He walked slowly beside the animal, guiding them both safely through the deepening twilight toward the nearest shelter.



They arrived at a quiet, welcoming desert inn just as the last rays of the sun dipped below the horizon. The Samaritan booked a safe room and spent the entire night by the bedside, nursing the injured traveler back to health. He made sure the man had water, warmth, and constant attention until the morning light.



When morning arrived, the Samaritan prepared to continue his journey and spoke privately with the innkeeper. He pulled out two silver coins from his pouch and handed them over as payment for the lodging. Take good care of him, the Samaritan instructed kindly, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you upon my return.



Jesus finished telling this powerful story and looked deeply into the eyes of the teacher of the law who had questioned him. He asked which of the three travelers proved to be a true neighbor to the man attacked by robbers. The listener replied that it was the one who showed mercy and kindness.



Jonathan eventually recovered his strength and returned home, forever changed by the radical love shown to him by a stranger. He learned that true goodness looks past ancient hatreds and social boundaries to help anyone in genuine need. The memory of the gentle hands that healed him inspired him to live a life of open-hearted service.



The timeless lesson of the story echoes across generations, teaching that love and compassion know no borders. Anyone in need is a neighbor, waiting for someone brave enough to stop and care. Go and do likewise remains an eternal invitation to heal the world through active kindness.