

The Wanderer

There was a man, new to the city. He had no friends or family. He had no money and nowhere to stay. He wandered the streets all day, finding no place to rest. The sun set and it grew dark. The wind blew cold and the man shivered.

He looked up and saw a grand cathedral before him. He thought to himself, "Here is a house of God, surely I will find help here." He went to the door but it was locked. He knocked on the door. He knocked and knocked. He heard a voice from inside call out "Go away. We are closed for the night." The man pleaded, "I only need a place to lay my head for the night. A place out of the cold." The door cracked open and a priest in peered out. "We can't open our doors to you. Our church is filled with valuable things and we cannot risk their loss. I am sorry." And with that he closed the door. The man knocked again, but no answer came.

The man wandered for several more hours, the wind turning bitter, biting through the man's thin coat. He came to a late night coffee shop. He saw there were few customers and many empty seats. He went to the back and sat at an empty table. The owner approached him and said, "You cannot sit in my shop without buying something. If you won't buy something, you have to go." The man pleaded with the shop owner, "Please, it is cold outside and I just need a place to warm my bones for a while." The shop owner grabbed the man by the collar and dragged him to the door and tossed him into the street. "Come back when you have some money to spend."

The man sat on the curb and pulled his coat around him tighter. He hung his head in misery. He heard a voice above him. "What's your trouble, hon?" He looked up and saw a prostitute staring down at him. She was dressed in rags, but she smiled as she spoke. "I am cold and alone and have no place to lay my head. I don't know where to turn." She reached down and took his hand. "Come with me", she said. "I have no money to pay for your services", he replied. "Come with me" said again. And she led him to her tiny room with only a blanket on the floor. And she laid him beside her and comforted him. And this filled his need.