

365 Stories 18. Two sick people in the room



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Two men, both of them seriously sick, shared the same room. One of the two men could sit on his bed for one hour every afternoon in order to eliminate the fluid in his lungs. His bed was next to the only window of the room. The other man had to pass all his days on his back. They talked together for many hours. They talked about their spouses and families, about their houses, their jobs, their vacations...



Every afternoon, when the man in the bed near the window could sit he spent his time describing to his roommate all that he could see outside. For the one who was in the other bed, it was as if his world was widening and cheering because of the activities and colors of the outside world. From the room, the view of the park with a beautiful lake. The ducks and the swans playing on the water and the children navigating their little boats. Young lovers walking arm in arm among the flowers, of every color of the rainbow. Tall trees decorated the landscape and the city could be seen in the distance. While the man by the window was describing all the details, The man in the other bed shut his eyes and imagined the scene. Days and weeks passed...



One morning, the nurse entered the room preparing for their bath and found the lifeless body of the man by the window, He died peacefully during his sleep. She was saddened and called the attendants to take the body. As soon as he thought appropriate, the other man asked if he could take the place next to the window. The nurse was happy to do the transfer and after being assured that he was comfortably installed, she left him alone.



Then, slowly, difficultly, he lifted himself on his elbows to see his first glance outside. At last, he would have the joy to discover all these things himself. He stretched to turn slowly towards the window. But the only thing his eyes saw, was a long grey wall. Wondering, he asked the nurse why his roommate decided to describe such wonderful things. She told him : "Oh, he is blind, he couldn't have seen the wall." And she added : "Certainly he simply wanted to encourage you."

Epilogue...

There is a tremendous happiness in making others happy, despite our own situations The shared pain is half the pain, but happiness, once shared, is doubled...