

An Agonizing Choice



This story is about a mother with young children who was forced to make an agonizing choice. Here, the word agonizing means causing deep pain. Whether or not she made the right choice, you will have to continue reading to find out.

Ramakrishan, a young man, his brown skin glistening in the mid-morning sunshine was mending his fishing net. He had made a good catch this morning, but his net had been damaged. Now it was stretched between two palm trees, and he was carefully tying up the holes. His wife Sangreta had a washtub and soap and was busy scrubbing her family's brightly colored clothes. After the clothes were washed she would spread them on rocks to dry in the sun. Every once in a while she would disappear into their one room hut and attend to the cooking. Their small village on the Southeast coast of India had many huts most were no bigger than their hut. Ramakrishan and Sangreta had three boys. The oldest was seven and the youngest had barely learned to walk. They were playing outside in the sand as boys like to do all over the world.

Sometimes they would throw a stick for their dog to fetch and have a playful game of tug of war when he returned.

Ramakrishan was watching the tide. The tide had gone out farther than he had ever seen it recede before. It made him uneasy. He heard a noise coming from the far distance over the ocean. The distant rumbling sound bothered him. He decided to climb the steep path to the top of the hill behind their hut and take a look. As he climbed, the strange noise from the sea grew louder. From the top of the hill looking toward the sea, he could hardly believe what he was seeing. A giant wave taller than the highest palm tree was swiftly rolling towards his village. From the top of the hill he called down to his wife, Sangreta, Sangreta, a tidal wave is coming grab the children and run for your lives!

Sangreta dropped what she was doing and ran to the small children. But here she had a agonizing choice to make. She had only two arms, but there were three children. Because of the urgency in her husband's voice, she knew she didn't have a moment to waste. She gathered up the two youngest ones and told the oldest, Dinakren run and follow me up the hill! Dinakren who had just turned seven years old would have to flee for his life on his two own legs. She turned and ran to the path that led up the hillside. Other villagers alerted to the danger were running with them. Up she climbed, panting for breath.

In the press of people she lost sight of Dinakren. Dinakren lost sight of her too. Frightened, he turned and went back to the hut with the dog at his heels. He was scared, and his home had always been a safe place.

When she got the top of the hill Sangreta looked for her oldest son. She could find him nowhere. She ran through the crowd asking neighbors, Where is Dinakren? Have you seen Dinakren? One neighbor said she had seen the boy going into their hut. Just then the giant wave of water hit the shore and crashed into the village. It crushed the boats on the beach and flattened the huts of the village. Sangreta saw the concrete walls of her own hut collapse before the terrible weight and force of the water. The destruction of the hut meant one thing to Sangreta. It meant her son had died inside. She fell to the ground weeping, her heart broken with grief for her boy whom she loved.

Sangreta had been forced to make an agonizing choice between the children she would carry to safety. God, too, made an agonizing decision so that sinners might be carried to safety. The Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. In love to a perishing world, God the Father sent the Lord Jesus down to this earth where he would suffer, bleed, and die on the cross, so sinners might be saved.

The Lord Jesus knew, if he didnt become the sin-bearer and go through the agony of the cross, no one would ever make it to heaven. The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus, the spotless Lamb of God, was willing to give his life so all who afterwards believe on him might not have to pay the fearful penalty of sin.

Hear his agonizing cry from the cross, My God, My God why hast thou forsaken me? He was forsaken so that sinners might be forgiven and find a place of safety. For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God. Can you turn away from the loving Savior who died for you? Surely there is no other way to be saved but through faith in Him.

Sangreta was crushed with grief, but the story of her family had a happy ending. The family dog had followed the boy into the hut. Somehow the dog understood the danger of staying in the hut. When the boy was settling down to stay, the dog started to nip at him and to pull his clothes. The boy couldnt resist the dogs effort to make him leave, so he ran out of the house. The dog snapped at his heels like he was shepherding the boy. Together they ran up a different path to the top of the hill. When the wave hit, the boy was high enough on the hill so that only his feet and legs got wet.

His mothers sorrow was turned to joy when she discovered her oldest son alive on the hill. She ran to him and hugged him close to her heart in a tight embrace. The boy told her the dog had nipped at his feet and legs, till he ran out of the hut and up the hill. Sangreta was overjoyed the dog had saved her young sons life.

The dog guided the little boy to the safety of the hill. What will God use to guide you to the safety of the Saviors side? Will it be a troubled conscience because of sin ? If you knew how God hates sin, your conscience would not give you a moments rest until you come to Christ. Or perhaps it will be a Bible text you cant get out of your mind. Or maybe the emptiness of your selfish life will turn you to the Savior.

God uses many things to lead people to repentance and faith. Perhaps everyone who comes to the Savior will have a different story. However, one thing is for certain; there is no other person to whom you can turn who can deliver you from the judgment your sins deserve. Wont you come to the Lord Jesus Christ before it is forever to late, and receive the salvation he so freely offers?