

Simba, My Balaam's Donkey

YIPPEEE!!
I'm
Finally
Flying!



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Simba, My Balaam's Donkey

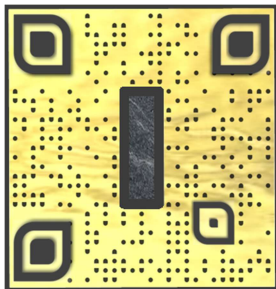
by Kevin Barr

from "A Collection of Short Letters"

found at www.PeaceAndGodWill.com

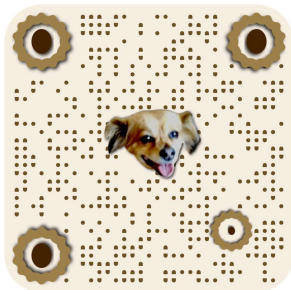


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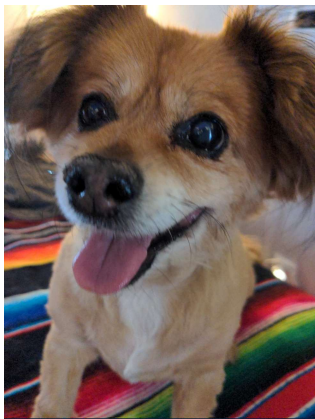
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Simba, My Balaam's Donkey

Balaam was a "prophet for hire" during the Old Testament Bible times. People would hire him to try and get answers or favor from God. Numbers 22:21-34 describes the event of Balaam riding his donkey to see a client when the donkey balked and would not continue on the trail, even after being strongly goaded on by Balaam. The donkey saw an obstacle in the pathway that Balaam was blind to. It was a messenger from God that prompted the donkey to warn Balaam about the serious errors he was committing. Balaam responded by accepting the warning and changing his goals for that client to what God wanted.



What a happy little guy!

Hello, I'm Kevin, and I would like to share a story with pet lovers everywhere. About four years ago I received a beautiful and friendly cavapom named Simba from a family member. At the end of a several weeklong visit I was packing my car to leave and he got out of the house three times to jump in the car and leave with me. It was especially odd because I had not been taking him with me for rides, but he saw the luggage and knew something was up. He didn't get to go with me that time but during the next visit the relative asked me to take him, so I did. He was a well-behaved little dog and an incredible companion to me. Everyone who met him said how adorable he was, and wherever we went together he would just patiently wait for me to make the next move. He really enjoyed his treats though, which proved to be his downfall.



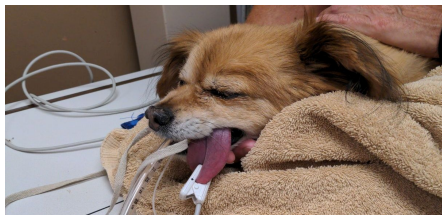
"Simba's Turndown Service", whether I requested it or not. I just made that bed, but at least no mint left on the pillow!

I noticed that if Simba was getting many treats he would become increasingly anxious about getting more and more, like a person with an appetite that was progressing into a habit or addiction. If I carefully managed the fun in his life he would take it as it was offered and everything was fine. But there was always the temptation in me and others to spoil him, triggering another bout with the really frustrating "treat monster" in him.

I decided a few years ago that God was making Simba into a sort of "Balaam's donkey" for me.

If I was in a period of indulging my own appetites or allowing others to successfully tempt me, Simba was also "enjoying" the fruits of my excess. So his neurotic tantrums became a warning from God to me when I was damaging my own health. Dogs and people share some common obesity related health issues like diabetes (can cause excessive hunger and thirst, maybe part of his food begging) and heart or breathing problems (for them, excessive panting with a honking and choking cough). So God put Simba in my life so his health related behavior could warn me when I was not managing my lifestyle properly.

After periods of success and failure at managing our fitness and diet, Simba's panting and coughing steadily worsened. Our most recent self-indulgent period led to a severe episode in him that caused a four hour experience under anesthesia with an oxygen tube trying to keep his windpipe and collapsing lungs open.



**Please don't let this
Happen to you or yours.**

It was an emotionally painful experience for me. Simba struggled to wake up from that, and even though he mostly recovered his breathing problem was still severe, and I had to make the difficult decision to end his life. The vet said it was the obesity that damaged him, mainly too much fat squeezing his trachea which eventually caused him so much breathing anxiety the stress inflammation caused the emergency. For a year or more he had been struggling to breathe and showing me his anxiety and pain with his honking type of cough and spitting. Maybe a strict diet could still have helped him, but he was over sixteen and surely would have more difficulties, so I had him euthanized on June 6th, 2023.

It was an emotionally painful experience for me. Simba struggled to wake up from that, and

The idea of voluntarily ending a dependent's life is difficult to explain to someone who has not been through it. There is guilt that I was responsible for protecting his health but actually caused his condition, so his discomfort and early end is mostly my fault. I also feel uncomfortable remembering the many times I yelled at him and made him go outside so I could get some peace during his outbursts, even on the day of his emergency. There is also the feeling that I am selfish, that after he so eagerly chose to move in with me and trust me with his life I ruined his health and then decided to end him when he became a burden. Maybe I should have become more devoted to his care and helped him enjoy a little more time.

I know that my experience with Simba is only a small taste of what other people have struggled with when losing their loved ones, but I feel I can

now understand their grief a little. Maybe I can keep a soft heart to empathize with people better.

Bible verses like Romans 5:3-4 and James 1:2-4 about dealing with afflictions and trials have a deeper meaning for me now. I have been leaning on God and asking Him to make this experience exactly what He wants for me to learn and grow from. For the developing endurance part of those verses, I hope to make Simba's loss a long term guide for improving my own lifestyle related health issues. It would be a way for me, like Balaam, to respond to God's warning and deal with my own inner "treat monster".

Thank You, God, for giving me Simba.

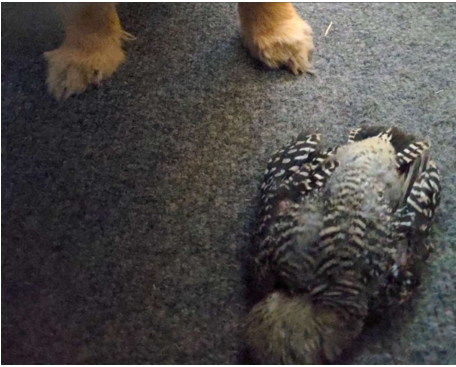
Do you have a Balaam's donkey? (pet or person!) Learn from my experience and enjoy a better life for both of you. Take a frank look at your lifestyle choices, the sooner the better.

Then thank God for Simba helping you both.

I feel that "doggy heaven" is only a place in our hearts where we treasure the memories of our lost pets, but still, I want to say goodbye Simba, thank you for your companionship and I'm sorry for not protecting you, I love you.



Monsoon duty in Arizona- never a break for the guardians of life and liberty!



Simba chased birds for years but this is the only one he ever brought me.

I bet he dreamed of flying up there with them.
(This one woke up and flew away)



Simba in his happy hunting ground in Idaho.
(circled in red)

Thank You for reading this story from
“A Collection of Short Letters”, found at
www.PeaceAndGodWill.com

Here are some excerpts from other letters in
that collection:

What Does Peace And Goodwill Really Mean?

...the word originally used for “peace” was
“shalom”, which includes the English meaning
but also means “wholeness”, a sense of
completeness that comes from having a
relationship with God. A person trying to live
without God has an incomplete understanding
of what a person should be and could not
enjoy a true and lasting peace.

...so the original two-word phrase “good will”
in the book of Luke actually means Godly
intentions or Godly character, not a person's
idea of charity or mere thoughts of best
wishes.

Freedom of Choice vs. Free Will to Choose

Free will is an attribute God gives to all people starting with Adam and Eve (even before the Fall). It includes mental tools like curiosity and imagination that we can use to help make decisions, and a conscience to help us determine proper and bad choices.

...If Jesus says "take my yoke and learn from me and I will give you rest" (Mat 11:29), He is saying something akin to IF you eat your broccoli THEN you can have some pie. FOC people ...assume that Jesus wants to give them pie, they don't even try to understand the broccoli part. FWTC people study the whole statement and realize that they are responsible for part of how to get the pie.

What Does "Believe" Mean In The Bible?

...Believing in something means living in it, abiding by it, staying true to it. ...like believing in what the Bible teaches about the sacrifice of Christ. In John 1:12-13 Jesus says that only believers can be a part of Him.

What Is The Bible?

The Bible is a collection of books and letters recording the history of persons and people of God, and others apart from God. It is a gift from our Creator that teaches us His ways of how to have a relationship with our own mind and body, with other Godly or ungodly people, and with God Himself. So it is an owner's manual for how to be a human.

Consider the idea of a parent who knows they are going to die but has time to prepare a journal to give to their young child. At first the child sees it as just a souvenir to remember their lost parent. As they read it over time they learn that their parent is teaching them how to live a successful life.

The child is bonding to the book as a representation of the parent they cannot see face to face, so they love the book and want to spend time with it. They don't try to find

excuses to only see it but not read it. The value and love it represents isn't in the cover, it is in the contents. This is how followers of Christ should think of the Bible.

However a person cannot understand the Bible without God's help with interpreting it. Every person has a natural bias from their sin nature that causes them to want to see the interpretation that appeals to them instead of God's intention, and no person can always overcome that bias. Also the original revelations from God to the authors of the books (the "God Breathed" version) were recorded in their native language with all of it's word and phrase definitions and the cultural understanding of the times. All translations from the original, whether by a devoted individual or by careful consideration of a body of peers, are not inerrant and will have flaws for the following reasons:

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by Kevin@PeaceAndGodWill.com



Check out my guy
Kevin's great
Bible letters,
t-shirts, mugs & stuff-
he's the best! -Simba



<click or scan me!>



Love Flows
Downhill



We love because God first loved us.

The grace of God has appeared,
offering the gift of salvation to all

Titus 2:11

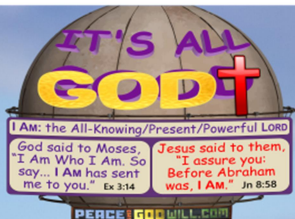


Pursue peace with everyone,
and holiness, for without it no
one will see the **LORD**

Heb 12:14

Let the peace of Christ rule
in your hearts, as members
of one body you were called

Col 3:15a



I AM: the All-Knowing/Present/Powerful LORD

God said to Moses,
"I Am Who I Am. So
say... I AM has sent
me to you." Ex 3:14

Jesus said to them,
"I assure you:
Before Abraham
was, I AM." Jn 8:58

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I, the LORD, search the heart,
to give to each man according
to his ways. Jer 17:10 SO...

Examine yourselves to see if you
are in the faith; to know if Jesus
Christ is in you. 2Cor 13:5

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Justified by faith, we have peace with
God through our Lord Jesus Christ Rom 5:1

Those
who love
God's
law have
great
peace
Ps 119:165

If you enjoyed this, please share it with others and send me a message! Kevin@PeaceAndGodWill.com