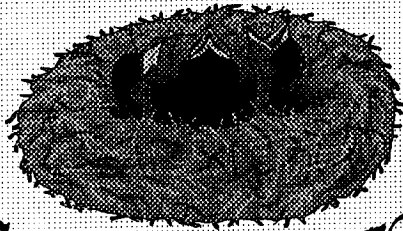
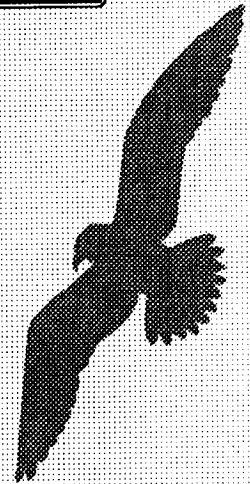


*"They shall
mount up...*

ON EAGLES' WINGS

*... with wings
as eagles."
Isaiah 40:31*



AERY NUGGETS

The King of Love My Shepherd is

The King of love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack since I am His
And He is mine forever.

Where streams of living waters flow
My ransomed soul He leadeth,
And, where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love He sought me.
And on His shoulder gently laid,
And home rejoicing brought me.
—J. B. Dykes

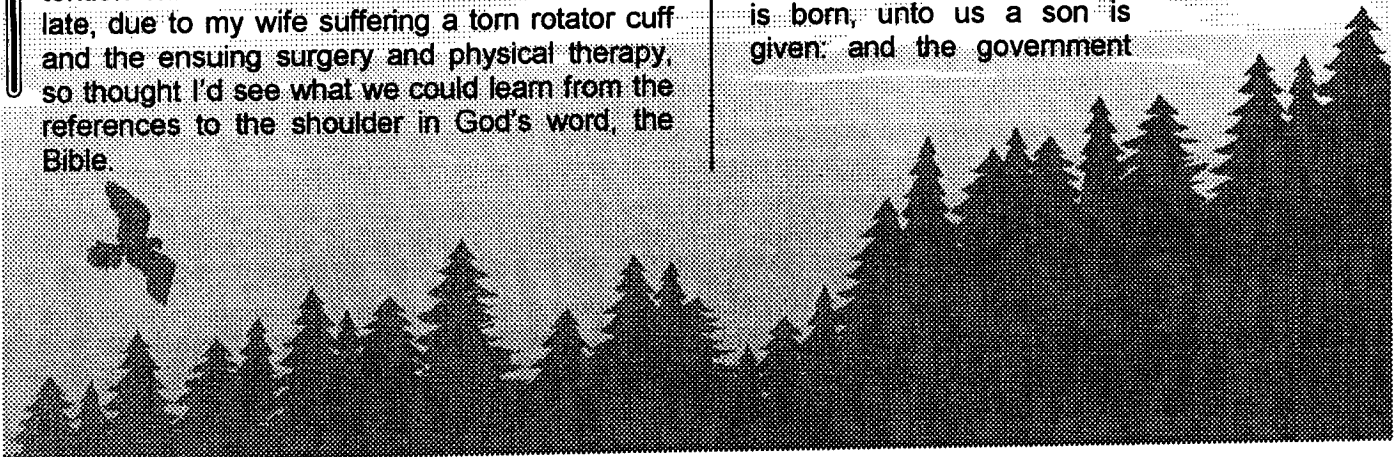
Dear warm shouldered Friend,

Has your shoulder been giving you pain as you move your arm any great amount? My attention has been focused on the shoulder of late, due to my wife suffering a torn rotator cuff and the ensuing surgery and physical therapy, so thought I'd see what we could learn from the references to the shoulder in God's word, the Bible.

Let us first look at an invitation, which though the shoulder is not named, it's service is. "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matt. 11:28 - 30). Can't we just picture a person struggling under a heavy burden, longing to be relieved of the weight and find rest. This is just what the blessed Lord Jesus offers to every sin burdened soul who will respond to His loving invitation - "Come".

With this new and loving relationship is provided a yoke, binding us to Himself, and at the same time, figurative of spreading whatever burdens we are privileged to bear for Him, to both shoulders, thus making it easy to bear. Bearing a yoke seems to carry with it the thought of submission to one higher, and also responsibility for the burden to be borne. "It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth." (Lam. 3:27).

A prophesy concerning the birth of Christ reads as follows, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government



shall be upon his shoulder." (Isaiah 9:6). Note, how one shoulder is sufficient to handle all the burden of government, and I think that this includes "of the world". We read of the shepherd seeking a lost sheep, "And when he hath found it, he layeth it upon his shoulders, rejoicing." (Luke 15:5). Think of the security this position represents.

Now, let us join the children of Israel, as they begin their 40 year journey from Egypt to the promised land. The start of the march is a hurried affair, but as the day's baking was in preparation they were loath to leave behind their bread making equipment, "And the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading troughs being bound up in their clothes upon their shoulders." (Exodus 12:34). Having been exposed to the idolatrous customs of the land for 430 years, how significant that the "staff of life" as they start this journey would be free from the effects of that which speaks of sin.

Three months on the way, and we have reached the desert of Sinai, where we will camp for almost a year while the people will be made aware of their sinfulness through the giving of the law, and God's graciousness through giving them a priesthood and sacrifice, and thus they could approach Him, not directly, but through the priest. Again the shoulders come into play, for the high priest must be clothed with a very special garment called an ephod. "It shall have the two shoulder pieces thereof joined at the two edges thereof; and so it shall be joined together. . . And thou shalt take two onyx stones, and grave on them the names of the children of Israel. . . And thou shalt put the two stones upon the shoulders of the ephod for stones of memorial unto the children of Israel: and Aaron shall bear their names before the Lord upon his two shoulders for a memorial." (Exodus 28:7,9,12). Think of that— he was representing the whole multitude as he stood before the mercy seat in the holiest of all, and what a load it was at times.

During our respite in traveling, Moses received directions directly from God for the building of the tabernacle, which would be His dwelling place with His people. This contained several pieces of shall we say furniture. These articles were used in the worshiping of God. and were provided with four rings through which staves were inserted for transporting the items on the march, or in the case of the candlestick, it was placed on a bar. These very holy pieces were entrusted to certain people who were to carry them on their shoulders. Some of those entrusted with transportation were provided with wagons, "But unto the sons of Kohath he gave none: because the service of the sanctuary belonging unto them was that they should bear upon their shoulders." (Num. 7:9). This responsibility was carried out faithfully for the following approximately 39 years, when the company finally reached the banks of the

flooding Jordan River.

"As they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water . . . that the waters which came down from above stood and rose up . . . And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan." (Joshua 3:15-17). With the company safely over the river, "Joshua called the twelve men, whom he had prepared of the children of Israel, out of every tribe a man: and Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark of the Lord your God into the midst of Jordan, and take you up every man of you a stone upon his shoulder, . . . that this may be a sign among you, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it passed over Jordan, . . . and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever." (Joshua 4:4 - 7). And so, our long march comes to an end with the erection of a reminder to the observer of what the Lord had done for His people.

Many years after the march ended King David sought to carry the ark of the Lord on a new cart, and as the oxen stumbled a man put forth his hand to steady the ark and the Lord in displeasure struck him that he died. After determining the proper way to transport the ark King David told the responsible parties, "For because ye did it not at the first, the Lord our God made a breach upon us, for we sought him not after the due order . . . And the children of the Levites bare the ark of God upon their shoulders with the staves thereon, as Moses commanded according to the word of the Lord." (1 Chron. 15:13, 15). What a testimony to doing things God's way!

While we present day believers and priests are not required to carry on our shoulders objects which represent our Lord and Savior, or are necessary to gain access to His presence, due to the rent veil, never the less we are to be burden bearers. Galatians 6:2 exhorts us to, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." Consider also these words, "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification." (Romans 15:1,2).

Your brother's burden might at times put a strain on your sore shoulder, but not in most cases, and if it does, count it all joy to suffer for His sake. Above all, don't give him or her the cold shoulder.

Your brother by His grace

Leslie L. Winters

For address correction or free new name addition,
write to:
Leslie L. Winters or Christine Albury