

# the ONE about the Kindness of a stranger

by Guru Mani H

The kindness of strangers bought me a little bit of *heaven* when I was going through *hell*

The kindness of one specific stranger turned my *frown* to a *smile*; my *despair* to *hope*

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Those who I thought were my friends deserted me, but the overwhelmingly good deeds from those I'd never before met, restored to me some sense of dignity

I am grateful, even years later, for those unknown people who took the risk to bend the rules in their job to help me in my desperate need

On those random occasions that a 'nobody' treats me with decency, they throw a stone into the pond of my life that ripples on for a long time to come

If I don't receive sympathy from the people that I expect it from, it leaves a *sour* taste in my mouth, but makes it all the more *sweet* when I get it instead from unexpected sources

I don't think they realize just how much difference their simple and unselfish act made to me

When dealing with a business that's cold, impersonal and unfeeling, how welcome it is to find that gem of an employee who acts towards me with understanding and compassion...even though I am to them an anonymous person who they can't even see

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Kindness towards a stranger takes but a *little* effort from me, for a *lot* of reward for them

Kindness towards strangers doesn't have to be a *burden* every day, but a *blessing* for whenever I feel a stirring in my heart to act

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On those occasions when there's a little inner tug to help a person that the cosmos has put in my path right now, I definitely feel worse if I ignore it

A few minutes of *my* time can bring hours or even days of hope and happiness to the person who I've helped, for no other reason than it was the right thing to do

*Offering* to carry something or *opening* a door for someone takes almost no time at all, but can brighten up the day of a stranger who I'll quite possibly never meet again

I can do my job with the minimum effort required to get through the day, or I can go over and above and use my position to bring a rainbow into the stormy and troubled lives of those I have contact with today

I may not have the power to change *the whole world*, but I do have the power to change the world for *the one soul* who's in front of me at this point in history

I always try to keep my eyes open for the chance to help a fellow member of humanity, as I know that one day, *they* could be *me*

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**Real power** is being able to show unexpected and unrewarded *kindness to a stranger*