

## **THE SAGA CONTINUES**

A shadow side of human behavior is that we sometimes have such good intentions and still manage to make so many mistakes!

Several years ago, I watched a spoof on an old Cowboy movie featuring Ann Margaret and Arnold Schwarzenegger. I think it was called "The Villain". Arnold was featured in the role of Handsome Stranger (aptly named after the "handsome stranger" that had impregnated his mother). He was attired in all white (representing purity, I think) clothing, white boots, and even carried a white gun...he was really pure! He was a kind soul (really pure) who's life purpose was to help others.

This one particular scene focuses on a slightly built, feeble, and very old lady standing by the side of a muddy dirt road filled with the thundering sound of horses carrying their riders to their destinations. Observing the woman standing there all alone and looking oh so feeble, Handsome Stranger was filled with a compulsion so strong to help this feeble woman across the street that he jeopardized his own life in an attempt to keep her safe - - he was really pure! As they dodged a barrage of oncoming carriages and horses, Handsome Stranger kept reassuring the old woman that she was safe with him and that she could relax and should not worry. Although the woman appeared to be saying something, it was lost in the thunder of horses hoofs pounding on the ground.

Forward to next scene: Feeble, little old lady is being carried back across the road to the doctor's office...on a stretcher. She is covered from head to toe with bandages, badly bruised and obviously in great pain. Concerned, Handsome Stranger approaches the stretcher and inquires WHY she had decided to "re-cross" the muddy dirt road after he had already, gallantly, by the way, provided safe passage for her the first time. The woman's response was priceless...and funnier than heck! Enraged, she begins

pounding on him, all the while showering him with abusive language (I didn't think little, feeble, old ladies knew those kind of words). This seemingly feeble old woman was intent on letting Handsome Stranger know that she had never wanted to cross the street in the first place and that he should've minded his own F\_\_\_\_\_n business! I tell you, this was the little, old, feeble, lady from hell! I FINALLY FOUND MY ROLE MODEL!!!!

Unfortunately, we all too frequently behave in a similar fashion as Handsome Stranger. In our eagerness to please, to provide or to be helpful, we sometimes "give" of ourselves, often to our own detriment, to others who not only are not seeking our well intentioned help, they flat out don't want it and they also bitterly resent the fact that we seem to exalt ourselves to a position of knowing more than they do, what is best for them. No one enjoys being made out to be an inferior human being who doesn't even know what is best for them...no wonder little, old, feeble, psycho lady was pissed!

Upon discovering that our gestures of kindness have not been welcomed with open arms, we are confused, we feel deflated, hurt, and often rejected. Yet, in a futile attempt to build our own self-worth, we repeatedly attempt to make ourselves useful, needed and wanted in some way, only to be slighted or downright rejected again.

