

Deep Pack

I have known people who always seemed to have the right answer or perspective concerning the true will of God. It reminds me of people I have known on the trail.

I have been on many camping trips in my life, and have met many different kinds of campers. Some have the most up-to-date equipment that is available, and yet don't seem to know how to use it. I've seen some who don't seem to have any equipment at all, and make it only through the kindness of strangers. Some people drilled holes in every item that they had to make their pack as light as they could. Others put everything but the kitchen sink in their pack so as to truly "be prepared"; we would ultimately have to help them hike back out.

We always seemed to forget something, even though we used extensive lists to help us remember. The team aspect of camping together always saw us through these situations. Between us all, we had enough to survive. We talked together about what we had packed; the things that we had that we didn't need, and the things that we did not have that were essential. This was always part of the fun, and the stories we told later, as long as we didn't get into real trouble such as hypothermia or physical injury.

I remember one non-descript little fellow that we met from time to time, though, that seemed to always have exactly what was needed for every situation. He had a normal sized pack, but it seemed to have an almost infinite depth. He always had the perfect answer for every problem. Whenever someone was in distress, he would rummage around in that pack and pull out something that would help.

I resolved to find out just how he could be so well prepared, and I asked him about it. He told me that it was nothing special, except a lifetime of study on what was really important in life. He had developed a knowledge that was available to everyone, but not everyone really paid enough attention. He was nothing special, he said, but you just can't attain that knowledge in a short time. And once you are on the trail, it is a bit late.