## **GLASS OF MILK**

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I received this story from several friends who live in different continents. The story touched me so deeply that I decided it to share it with AI – Ameen readers. I tried to identify the author in order to send him/her a note of thanks. However, after searching for few days, I found out that the story is true but the author is unknown.

The beautiful story goes like this. "One day, a poor boy who was selling goods from door to door to pay his way through school, found he had only one thin dime left, and he was hungry. He decided he would ask for a meal at the next house. However, he lost his nerve when a lovely young woman opened

the door.

Instead of a meal he asked for a drink of water. She thought he looked hungry so brought him a large glass of milk. He drank it slowly, and then asked, "How much do I owe you?" "You don't owe me anything," she replied. "Mother has taught us never to accept payment for a kindness."He said, "Then I thank you from my heart."

As Howard Kelly left that house, he not only felt stronger physically, but his faith in God was restored as well. He had been ready to give up and quit. Many years' later that same young woman became critically ill. The local doctors were baffled. They finally sent her to the big city hospital, where they called in specialists to study her rare disease.

Dr. Howard Kelly was called in for the consultation. When he heard the name of the town she came from, a strange light filled his eyes. Immediately he rose and went down the hall of the hospital to her room. Dressed in his doctor's gown, he went in to see her. He recognized her at once.

He went back to the consultation room determined to do his best to save her life. From that day he gave special attention to her case. After a long struggle, the battle was won.

Dr. Kelly requested the business office to send the final bill to him for approval.

He looked at it, and then wrote something on the edge, and the bill was sent to her room. She feared to open it, for she was sure it would take the rest of her life to pay for it all. Finally she looked, and something caught her attention on the side of the bill. She read these words ... "Paid in full with one glass of milk. (Signed) Dr. Howard Kelly. Tears of joy flooded her eyes as her happy heart prayed. Thank You, God that your love has spread broad through human hearts and hands."

This simple, yet profound story can teach the world a lesson about sharing, charity, giving, mercy, kindness and love. That lady, who offered a glass of milk to a stranger, never asked him a question; she just replied brilliantly not to the question he asked but to the hidden question he forgot to ask.

According to edhelper.com, "the word charity comes from the Latin word *caritas*, which means love. All of the major world religions believe in service to those in need. For Christians, "charity never faileth" (I Corinthians 13). "There's a saying which goes something like this: Bread cast on the water comes back to you. The good deed you do today may benefit you or someone you love at the least expected time. If you never see the deed again at least you will have made the world a better place - And, after all, isn't that what life is all about?" This saying comes from the Christian faith. According to **Ecclesiastes 11:1**, Cast your bread on the waters: for you shall find it after many days.

Buddhists believed that compassion is a basic part of right living. And Jews are commanded to give at least ten percent of their net income to charity. Muslims practice charitable giving as one of their five pillars of their religion. According to Prophet Muhammad, prayers lighten the heart, and charity is a proof of Iman (Faith), and abstinence from sin is perfect splendor. The orphans, the needy, and those who ask should be treated kindly. The Quran (93:9-11) say: "Therefore treat not the orphan with harshness; Nor repulse him who asks; And the bounty of the Lord, rehearse and proclaim."

If all humanity applies the lesson of mercy presented by this story, the earth would become Paradise and Hell would disappear.