

小人物大貴人

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經文：列王記下 5:1-14

今天早上當你準備來禮拜時，有人照鏡子嗎？

每當乃縵將軍照鏡子時，他的心就會因為他那被癡瘋肆虐、斑白的皮膚而抽痛。超級將軍不敵癡瘋所帶來的超級羞辱。

他不只不願參與社群臉書 FaceTime 更無法面對自己的臉。

在他無法面對自己的同時，他的妻子，他的奴隸少女，他的僕人們天天都面對乃縵的痛苦。

他的焦躁、他的低潮、他那習得的無助、他那逐漸的無感及麻木，都讓他的家人朋友同事掛心難過。

戰功彪炳的乃縵將軍一副半死不活，倒是那在亞蘭-以色列戰爭擄來的少女奴隸在被擄之地仍滿有仁愛及盼望；她衷心地與她主母及主人的哀傷同哀傷。或許她的心思不會被她的父老接受：她怎麼可以忘記國仇家恨，倒過來幫忙亞蘭的征東狗將軍？那麼鄉愿，婦人之仁！

「要是我主人去見撒瑪利亞的那位先知就好了！他一定能治好我主人的癡瘋病。」

「苦 bē-tàng 我 ê 主 kah 撒馬利亞 ê 先知同在，伊一定會醫好伊 ê 癩 ko。」

或許她只是婦人之仁，或許遠不止於此，而是他所認識的上帝寬大，心懷寬大，大到容得下亞蘭和以色列敵我兩國。

讓我們把鏡頭轉到乃縵將軍。他在以利沙的茅廬前氣得冒煙。根本沒有什麼仙丹妙藥，叫一個不是東西的無名小卒來說：「你到約旦河裡洗七次，你的皮膚就會復原，並得到潔淨。」

「你去約旦河洗身軀七 pái，你 ê 肉就會復原，你會得 tiòh 清氣。」

什麼碗糕！什麼神人？應該是神棍吧！去那比濁水溪還濁的約旦河洗七次，門都沒有！要丟臉也不能跑來這小不垃圾 (la ji) 的以色列戰敗國來丟。

乃縵將軍的隨從幕僚多人見他怒髮衝冠拂袖而去，急忙同聲介入：「我父啊，先知若吩咐你做一件大事，難道你會不去做嗎？何況他只是說你去洗洗就可以潔淨！」

「我 ê 父，先知若叫你去做大事，你 kám 無 beh 做？何況伊 kan-taⁿ kā 你講，去洗就會清氣？」

違背軍令的代價他們是歷歷在目；實在是一群不知死活的怪胎。

剛才，我們聽到主母房內的悄悄話，又聽到隨從幕僚的肺腑忠言，但是我們可有聽到將軍夫人的聲音？用耳朵再怎們聽都聽不到；用心看或許就看到她用 LINE，無聲的祈禱關愛，大家同意嗎？

我們不知道乃縵將軍週邊的這些人的名字；奴隸少女、傳遞處方的使者、隨從幕僚，夫人的名字都沒寫在聖經上，我們理當不認識這個醫療團，這個社群的無名小人物。但靜下心來，當我們審視鏡子裡的自己，回首昨日種種，耳旁彷彿聽到：

今天沒看到你來教會，都好嗎？

不要擔心交通問題，我們會去接你。

我想很難熬，我做不了什麼，但我願意聽你訴說...

猶記得那個厚實的擁抱、溫暖的握手、代禱的便簽。

其實我們生命中也有許多小人物，在創傷痛楚時與我們同行（例證）。

我們剛才談的是亞蘭的乃縵將軍，接下來我會帶大家來和另外兩個乃縵碰面。今天會碰到總共三個乃縵。

我們再一次審視鏡子，看到什麼？

偶而，我們會不會看到鏡子裡是很乃縵的自己？

不是皮膚上的癩瘋，而是內心深處的癩瘋：

都是她的錯！教會不應該...他們太不尊重人了...都不報告清楚不透明化...他們又不聽我的我何必奉獻...她就是在算計我的錢，連通電話都不打...他們實在很笨...我當然有辦法控制我的酒癮/藥癮/情色、我哪裡有在自憐...我才沒自暴自棄...。

聖經裡那個乃縵生病了，大家都知道，包括他自己。他需要療癒，他也想得到療癒。現實生活裡，當我們是乃縵時，即便我們都需要甩開癩瘋，但不是每一個現代乃縵都願意尋求療癒。當我們不知死到臨頭，溫水煮青蛙，什麼人會是我們的大貴人呢？當我是乃縵時，請你做我的大貴人，好嗎？

放眼望去，其實有許多形形色色的現代乃：有的努力求醫、看起來笨的鄉下赤腳仙他也樂意去拜訪；有的還在跑，不敢面對自己那面鏡子、不敢面對親友那面鏡子、不敢面對聖經裡超越學問的那面鏡子。

這樣的社會景象構成了現在我們所處的世界，我們常聽說：這個世界病了。用聖經的語言，世界患有癩瘋。所以我們要將鏡頭轉向這個最大的乃縵。不是第一個--亞蘭那個--乃縵，不是第二個--你我裡面的--乃縵，而是這個癩瘋潰爛的世界也是乃縵--第三個。打開報紙，打開 CNN，打開 BBC，都是辣新聞。我們的社會算是富有、強大、滿有 AI 人工運算/智慧，但是智慧難道能從運算而來，不由認識上帝而來嗎？

當這個世界照照鏡子，會看到癩瘋引發的千瘡百孔，世界這個乃縵又冒出新的症狀：

2019.6.香港逃犯條例爆發的社會動盪，2019.6.20的伊朗擊落價值超過2億美元的無人機。各強國/強權/強黨/強人劍拔弩張，隨時可擦槍走火，還有那喚不醒的毒品世代...

什麼人來拯救這世界免於癡瘋死蔭？

不外乎那乘載上帝的道的少女，不外乎那傳揚真理的小人物！

這些小人物奉主的名聚集，成為教會；教會在世界客居，讓上帝的主權親臨、掌理破碎的世界，帶來祝福，拯救她成為新的創造。小人物大貴人。我們就是被揀選的小人物，親愛的，我們是乃縵/世界的大貴人；我們受造，受召，是來將乃縵帶出死穴，進入新天地。我們就是教會。

讓我們誠心傳揚真理，唯有在基督裡才有拯救。即便我們小小的教會，與主同工，我們就能為破碎的世界帶來癒合。讓我們同聲唱出上帝活命的話 (Hymn #462)：洗就會清氣！

聖詩：

#67 我心讚美上帝

#462 上帝所賜活命的話

使我成祝福 Make Me a Blessing George S. Schuler/Music , Ira B. Wilson/Words 台語

金句：加拉太 6:9-10

Noble Nobody

Anyone take a look at the mirror this morning as you prepare for Sunday service?

Every time General Naaman looks into the mirror his heart cringes because his skin is flurried with leprous snow. Mighty General is flurried with mighty shame, so much so that he would not go on FaceTime and could not face himself.

Even as he could not face himself, his wife, his slave maid, his servants face his pain every day. They suffered his irritation, his sadness, his learned helplessness and his unaware-numbness [even though this leprosy is not Hansen's disease, for the sake of storytelling, we will incorporate the numbness due to neuronal damage in Hansen's disease].

The mighty General is without hope, unlike his captured slave maiden. Living on this enemy land, this young slave girl cares for her mistress and master. Her kin may want to shut her mouth: "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." Betrayal! How dare you have such loving sentiment towards the General who raids our homeland!

Maybe her heart is very big or maybe her understanding of God is very big, so big that both Israel and Aram could find room in His heart.

Let's move our camera and zoom in to Naaman.

The mighty General is insulted. How dare the prescription is only delivered by a nameless messenger! Can you believe what he delivered?

That nobody dared even to relay “Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean.” This Elisha does not make sense.

I have followed the referral letter from the maiden nobody, but the prescription – bathing seven times in that muddy water. I would not lose my face any further.

Naaman’s team of servants stopped him from storming off. “Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, ‘Wash, and be clean’?”

Together, these servants voiced against General Naaman, they braced the risk of disobeying the General. A bunch of outrageous subordinates they are.

Just now, we eavesdropped at the young slave girl and we overheard the servant-crew. How about Mrs. Naaman? She is totally quiet. Not even one line from her. Does everyone agree that Mrs. Naaman did LINEed?

We do not know the names of these characters – the young slave girl, the messenger, the team of servants and the mistress. We do not personally know this community of Naaman. But maybe we do know, when we look at our past, we would recognize along the journey God had sent along these characters. Along the way we often encountered:

“I did not see you in church this morning, is everything ok?”

“Do not worry about ride, we can arrange it for you.”

“I know it is difficult, we are praying for you.”

A quiet touch, a warm hand shake, a prayer card...

We know the names of our helpers, we all have been helped and healed.

(Example from prayer meeting)

Just now we talked about General Naaman of Aram.

Now I am going to bring us to another two Naamans. We will meet three Naamans today.

When we look at the mirror seriously, what image do we see?

Occasionally, do we see Naaman in the mirror? Maybe not overt skin leprosy, maybe covert heart leprosy:

“It is her fault ... it is the church’s fault ... they are so uncaring ... they did not announce clearly, they do not listen to me why should I bring offering on Sunday, she is after my money, they are just stupid, of course I can control my alcohol, my marijuana, my porn, my self-pity...”
In the case of Naaman, everyone knows he is sick, including himself. He needs the healing and he wants the healing.

Can we say that for everyone? When the leprosy is inside, we might not admit, we need the healing, yet we might not want it. When we, you and I, she and he, the individual modern Naamans, are not desperate enough to want healing, who could be our nobodies? When I am Naaman, would you be my noble nobody, my community?

There are many different current-day Naamans – individual Naaman who want to be healed, individual Naaman who is still running from the mirror. Mirror of himself, mirror of the community, mirror of the Bible.

The collections of current-day Naamans filled the world. The world is sick with leprosy, using the language of the Bible. This is the third Naaman.

The collective Naaman of this world. Look at our society, our nation, our world. We are the rich, the mighty, full of artificial intelligence. Could the algorithm of AI be the master of Godly wisdom?

When the world looks into the mirror, there stands Naaman:

The world is suffering from leprosy. Do you see his latest lesions?
the chaos in Hong Kong (June 9, 2019, No China Extradition),
the death of \$220 million US Global Hawk drone (June 20, 2019),
the combustible relationship between mighty nations/political parties, politicians,
the opioid crisis of our young generation...

Who can save the world from the deadly path?

Who but the young girl, pregnant with the Word; the nameless disciples, delivering the truth?
Gathered together, all we nobodies become His body, become the church, become the blessing.
Nobel nobody! The church is the Resident Alien on this broken world. [\[1\]](#)

We are the little people, we are the nobodies, we are charged to deliver the mighty Naaman-world. We are called to free him from the tomb of leprosy into a new creation. We are the church, we speak the cleansing salvation in Christ alone.

However small we are as a local church, with Christ we heal the world. Let's sing the wonderful words of life. Sing to the world: Wash and be clean.

[\[1\]](#) Stanley Hauerwas and William Willimon, *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1989).