

THE FELL WALKER'S SURVIVAL GUIDE

By Rod

This sketch attempts to illustrate Psalm 119 v 105. The Survival Guide is likened to the Bible. Three friends are walking on the Fells but are getting lost.

CAST

Jo *The leader. He has taken charge of the expedition but it becomes evident that he has led the party into getting hopelessly lost*
Ken *Friend of Jo*
Les *Friend of Jo and Ken*

[Enter Jo. Dressed in hiking kit. Carrying a rucksack.]

Jo *Come on you two. Try to keep up. [Enter Ken and Les, they are walking slowly as if groping through darkness. Occasionally they stumble]*

Ken *We're doing our best. It's not exactly easy, Jo. The ground is pretty rough on these Fells – especially since you led us off the main path. This 'short cut' of yours seems to be taking us nowhere.*

Les *Yeah, and it's almost pitch black.*

Jo *You should eat more carrots – like me. It helps me see in the dark.*

Ken *The amount of carrots you eat – it's surprising you haven't turned into a rabbit..*

Les *[To Jo] OK, 'Bright Eyes', which way do we go next?*

Jo *I'm not sure.*

Ken *Great.*

Jo *But just give me a moment and I'll work it out. [He shuts his eyes and starts to hum]*

Les *What are you doing?*

Jo *I'm resonating.*

Les *Come again?*

Jo *I'm getting in touch with the Earth.*

Ken *[To Les]* Just our luck to be stuck in the middle of nowhere with a resonating rabbit.

Les Yes. Things don't look good.

Jo Right, I've got it. We need to go this way. Follow me. *[He steps forwards towards the audience and immediately falls over, letting out a cry]*

Les What's happened?

Ken I think he's got in touch with the Earth!

Les Are you OK, Jo?

Jo Yes, I think so. I must have put my foot in a rabbit hole.

Ken Were you trying to steal their carrots?

Les Don't be so cruel, Ken, and help me lift him up. *[They help Jo up. He is limping having twisted his ankle – but not too badly]*

Ken Okay, okay. But even you, Jo, will have to admit that we are in a pretty bad position. It's nearly totally dark. We can't see to put one foot in front of another safely. You seem to have led us well off the main path and we have no idea which way to go to get back on it. Why didn't you bring a map?

Jo I don't believe in maps.

Les *[tentatively]* I suppose we could try looking to see what's in the survival pack that guide gave us.

Ken Oh yes. Where is it?

Les Jo took it and put it in his rucksack.

Jo Waste of time. It'll be no use. It's bound to be way out of date.

Les It's got to be worth a try - given our present circumstances.

Ken Given our present circumstances, anything's got to be worth a try.

Jo Rubbish. Remember the guide's name – Gideon! I mean, who would ever follow the advice of anybody called Gideon?

Ken Well I think it might be better than the directions I've had from you, so I'm going to have a look. *[Takes pack out of Jo's rucksack]*

Jo Suit yourself.

Les What's in it?

Ken Well there is a torch. *[Produces small torch]*

Jo It's tiny.

Ken I can just make out something written on it: "A lamp to your feet".

Les Try turning it on. *[Ken turns it on, pointing it downwards]*

Ken Oh look, it casts a pool of light just around our feet. No more falling into rabbit holes.

Les That's great, but we could do with something to help us see where we are heading? *[Delves into pack and pulls out a large torch]* Ah, this is more like it.

Ken *[Pointing small torch at large torch]* Look it's got something written on it.

Les Oh yes. "A light for your path". Let's try turning it on. Hey, this is some light. Look you can see for miles around. It looks as though there's a path over there.
Hey, Jo, maybe that Gideon wasn't such a loser after all?

Jo Maybe.

Ken *[Who has been studying side of pack]* Look at what's written on the pack: "The Fell Walker's Survival Guide". It was specially made for you, Jo.

Jo How do you mean?

Ken Well you just fell walking!! *[Ken and Les enjoy the joke at Jo's expense]*

Jo Very funny. Here let me have a look to see if there's anything else. *[Grabs pack]*

Les *[Shining large torch around]* We could do with something to tell us which path to take. I can see lots of different ones with this super-searchlight.

Jo This could be helpful. *[Pulls out a map]* It's a map.

Ken I thought you didn't believe in maps. You prefer to resonate with Mother Earth.

Jo Maybe I've changed my mind.

Ken Ok. Let's have a look then. *[They pull out the map and look at it]*

Jo Look, there's a sign saying "You are here".

Les It can't be right. How could the map-maker know where we were going to be when we opened the map?

Jo But it is right. It even marks the rabbit hole I fell into. Wow, this is some map.

Ken And there's an arrow saying "This is the path to follow". I wish we'd discovered it earlier.

Les Never mind. We've got it now, so we're all set to go. I'll point the searchlight. Jo, you read the map and Ken can illuminate the ground so we don't fall over.

Ken Good plan, Les.

Jo *[Looking at map]* Yes good plan. The map tells us we need to go that way. *[Points]*

Les Jo, you've got to admit that that Gideon fellow did us a good turn when he put that survival pack in our hands.

Jo I have to agree.

Ken Me too. Good old Gideon. *[They walk off together]*

THE END