

## The King's Highway

Once a king had a great highway built for the people of his kingdom. After it was completed, but before it was opened to the public, the King decided to have a contest. He invited all who desired to participate. Their challenge was to see who could travel the highway the BEST.

On the day of the contest many people came. Some had fine chariots, beautiful clothing, fine hairdos, or delicious food to eat. Some people came in running clothes and ran along the highway. People traveled the highway all day; but each one, when they arrived at the end, complained to the King that there was a large pile of rocks and debris left on the road at one spot. This got in their way and it hindered their travel.

At the end of the day, as the sun was setting, a lone traveler crossed the finish line and walked wearily to the King. He was tired and dirty but he addressed the King with great respect, thanked him for the new highway and handed him a bag of gold. He explained, "I stopped along the way to clear away a pile of rocks and debris that was blocking the road. This bag of gold was underneath it all, and I want you to return it to its rightful owner."

The King replied, "YOU are the rightful owner." The traveler said, "Oh no, this is not mine.... I've never known such money." "Oh yes!" said the King, "You've earned this gold, for you have won my contest! He who travels the road best is he who makes the road smoother for those who follow."