

Foolishness (Letter from Andrew H.)

Dear Yonêq,

It has been on my heart to communicate to you and share with you what our Master Yahshua has shown me since my accident. It was not bad luck that caused my accident. I want to acknowledge our Father's hand in it all. I don't think He brought it upon me either, but He is certainly using it. I believe I can see things objectively about what caused the accident. The turkey hunt was a foolhardy, excitable, impulsive event. I just thought in my own strength it was a good idea — a bit of excitement and a turkey for dinner. I was so deceived. I influenced my brothers in my flesh, bringing about devastating consequences. It was foolish to take something so lightly and trust in myself. I didn't reason rightly that day. I had the chance to listen to the restraint of my conscience, but in my excitement I threw it off. I knew that we weren't really coordinated, but didn't express this to Chên, because my mind was set on the flesh. I can see now how foolish this was. I wasn't submitting myself truly to his good authority. I had pushed something through and wasn't sensitive to the Holy Spirit. I was self-centered and seeking vain glory. The turkey hunt was a really unwise thing to be doing. There was no need for a turkey, it could have resulted in the needless taking of life — no one had seen the potential danger of the situation. The most dangerous and foolish thing was that we weren't coordinated. I had placed myself outside the boundaries of our Father's covering. I wasn't in a safe place. Because of my own sin, I was wounded — it was so devastating.

When I was in the hospital, Nûn shared what Jonathan had read in Ecc 10:1-3. It pierced my heart because I knew it was talking about me. For the first time in my life I started to see my foolishness for what it was. In the world I had done many dangerous and foolish physical things — I was very worthless and didn't listen to my conscience. If I hurt myself I would think it was bad luck, or even unfair. I didn't have a proper value of my own life or others and I had a truly wrong estimation of what I could do. This was a serious character flaw in me and it crossed over the line into Israel. My foolishness was like an infection that could spread to others. It was serious enough that it could have cost me my arm or even my life (I am so thankful for His mercy). My foolishness was weightier to our Father, and in His wisdom He saw it was time to deal with it. Why was I so foolish? What made me so like this? Our Father showed me.

Nûn shared Rom 12:1-6 with me. It convicted me further. It made me see that the turkey hunt was the fruit of something that was working in me. I have trusted in myself too much — not just in the turkey hunt. It was really in me to push something through in my flesh. Manipulating instead of really submitting. I saw that I was a lot stronger than I had even thought. I thought I really loved our Father's authority. I knew I had really received the sent ones, but something was holding me back, crippling my spirit. My anxiety caused me to override my trust in Him. It causes me to be strong — the end result is destruction, death. The whole thing has left a lasting impression upon my heart, just like the impression left on my arm.

Through everything that has happened, our Father has won my heart so much more. I feel I am *starting* to see things more like He does. I can now say that I do love His authority, but now it is not passed my own experience and the reality of my life.

The whole incident seemed to come out of the blue. It really was a time of suffering for me. I had to face myself. I was so ashamed to see how I was. I hadn't brought honour to Him. I thought of how those in the first church had suffered so much, even physically because of their love for Yahshua, and then I would see that I was suffering because of my unrighteousness. My sin had injured me.

The shame of it all fell upon my heart. I believed that I did want to serve our Father, but how I had treated Him grieved me so much. I thought of what a terrible witness my life was — that a priest could act so foolishly and be so strong. I was faced with a choice, to be worthless or accept my humiliation as discipline. I became so needy. Crushed with reality my heart ached to see how I was. I cried out for our Father's forgiveness. I was a desperate man. He had spared my life — miraculously no nerves were damaged and the infection was killed. In my time of distress I lifted up my soul to Him and He was faithful to deliver me. I longed that I could suffer for *Him*. I stretched out my withered condition and Yahshua is healing me. His body here on Earth picked me up and stood beside me. They received my repentance. I needed help to stand up right. Nûn was so

wonderful to me. He brought the sword to me and cut me free from my enemies. I am thankful for the wounds of a friend. He was a loyal and faithful shepherd. He left the 99 sheep and came to rescue the one who was lost and afraid. I really saw our Father's heart in Nûn and how he cared for me. I saw that our Father did love me. Our Father truly reached my heart. I love Him more than I ever had. I was proud and our Father had to humble me. It hurts me to think this, but it is the truth.

At my baptism I cried out that I wanted to serve Him and He heard me. I made a covenant with Him but wasn't walking in a manner worthy of my covenant. I have always wanted to serve Him, but now I believe I can. This accident is a turning point in my life. I was a man who was strong in the flesh. But our Father in his loving kindness has weakened me in the flesh so I could be a man in the spirit. He has changed my heart and I am determined to serve Him. It is such an honour to be part of His body. I don't want to hurt our Master or His authority. It moves me to think of how our Master suffered on our behalf. There is a debt deep in my heart that I want to repay to Him. He loved me and died to save me. All I can do is give my life to him. I want to serve Him with a whole heart because I love Him so much. He created me to serve Him and it grieves me to see how I have hurt Him. It is hard to understand that He can love us so much and forgive us of such a great debt. But I believe it and I am going to stand with Him. I have given my life to Him and He deserves nothing less. Our Father is healing my heart. I am so thankful for His love. He has spoken to my heart in a way that words are hard to express, but I am thankful He has given us a life to do so.

I am receiving my discipline and I am coming to know Him a little more. It is sooo wonderful that now I am even able to be concerned with our Father's purpose. Our Father is making me fit to serve Him. My strength would have stopped me, but He is changing me so that I would be more useful to Him. He is treating me as a son He disciplines those whom He loves.

My hand is stiff right now because of the skin graft sticking to my muscles. Our Father is using this restraint to change me. It requires a lot of painful stretching and exercises to give it more freedom of movement. I can feel the flesh burning even physically as I am stretched. Our Father is dealing the same way with my spirit. He is restraining me to make me more flexible and handleable. The flesh has to die, but it needs to. I am learning that our spirits have to rule over our flesh and that we need to get our strength from Him to do this.

There is more I could write, but I hope this will communicate what has spoken to me. I am so thankful for you and Hâ-Emêq and how you lay down your lives for our Master. Everything is so encouraging about Australia; a lot of response even before we get there. Our Father is making us all fit to serve Him; He is preparing us for Australia. We are excited. We are praying for you. It will be wonderful to meet you and come to know you — we love you sooo much. May our Father give you His strength to defeat your enemies. We are so thankful for the teaching we receive. They give us life and encourage us to lay down our lives for Him and to change.

I am so thankful to be part of Israel, the apple of our God's eye. He is only good. I just want to acknowledge Him through all that has happened and bring Him honour through my life, the honour He deserves.

I love you,

Your brother in our Master Yahshua,

Andrew H.