

A Chance Encounter

On Wednesday 13th I had my first interview for a full-time teaching post at the school I did my first placement. So being me, I arrived a full hour early for my 9.30 am interview, only to run into pupils saying

“Hello sir, what are you doing here?”.

Not being able to cope with that, I set off for a head-clearing walk, 25 minutes out, 25 minutes back, 10 minutes to spare.

It was a beautiful walk too, streams, paths, landscapes, garden. I passed a man on a hydraulic platform, high-pressure water cleaning the roof. I noted he'd stepped off the platform and was standing on the roof itself, which didn't seem very safe. Rather than intervene and risk a punch on the nose though, I trusted to a quick prayer to keep him safe. (*Remember this man - he comes back later in the story.*)

Well at 8.55, I turned back, having carefully remembered my route by a clever mnemonic - first left, second right, second right - or was it second left, first right, first right.

Within a few minutes, I realised I was hopelessly lost. There was not a soul in sight either. I glanced at my watch. Total panic - it was now 9.15.

“Lord “, I said, “if ever I needed your help, it's now.” (*Perhaps a bit melodramatic but at the time ...*).

When I looked up there was an elderly lady standing about ten feet away from me. I thought, “I can't ask her, she'll think I'm a mugger” but in the next instant she was standing right by me. “Excuse me “ she said “but you look terribly lost”.

“I am” I replied, and we both started to laugh.

“Well where do you want to be?” she said turning her head to one side and looking up at me. I told her the school.

“Oh dear” she said “that's a bit complicated from here.”

“Well, I can remember a man spraying a roof, I know my way from there.”

“Oh he's just down there, first right, first left”. “Thank you so much “ and I left in what I hope was not too unseemly haste. I was back at the school in time.

Now in telling this story, three people have put an idea into my mind, and my wife tells me three confirmations and that's truth. So come to you're own conclusion.

Yes, and I did get the job.