

VERSE: TRUE HONOURS

In "True Honours," an intimate narrative unfolds as an elderly, blind uncle recounts his life's journey and unfulfilled dreams to his young niece, seeking to instill a lesson of true honor beyond worldly recognition. As a young man, the uncle had ambitious visions of earning distinction through acts of valor, charity, and artistic creation, inspired by his reading of knights and noble quests. However, life's cruel realities, crowned by the loss of his sight, shifted his dreams from personal glory to a more profound understanding of honor.

The uncle describes his reliance on the love and support of his siblings, particularly through his brothers Philip, Max, and his sister's husband, Godfrey, who provided emotional anchor and practical assistance in his moments of despair. As his brothers venture into the world, carving their path in public service and military valor, the uncle finds solace and purpose in being a confidant and helper to his village, fulfilling his angelic vision in an unexpected form. His sacrifices and care for others, especially for Godfrey's daughter and a beloved brother believed to be lost in war, embody the essence of true honor.

Through the tale, the uncle shares the unfolding of events that mirror his earlier divine promises—Philip rising as a statesman embodying the role of a "Helper of the Poor and Suffering," Max gaining fame on the battlefield, and the uncle himself, though blind and physically restricted, profoundly impacts his community with love and wisdom. The narrative crescendoes with a heartfelt account of love, loss, and the joyous reunion with the presumed dead brother, Max, who exemplifies the courage and strength akin to the uncle's youthful dreams.

"True Honours" weaves a poignant reminder that true honor is found not in accolades or achievements but in the quiet dedication to service, love, and sacrifice for others. It's a reflection on how visions of glory transform with life's trials into a deeper

understanding of purpose and fulfillment, marking a stark contrast between youthful dreams and the reality of life's unpredictable journey.

