

“O Jacob, how can you say the LORD does not see your troubles?

O Israel, how can you say God ignores your rights?”

Isaiah 40:27 (NLT)

“Sometimes during the day or when I’m sitting in the dark holding [my baby] in just the right, arm numbing, spine pulling, contorted way to keep him asleep for 10 minutes just so he can wake up and mess up my house and nerves, I’ll ask God ‘you here?’

“It’s excruciating and it’s lonely and there’s actually no way I can do or think one thing ...”

North Hills Mom

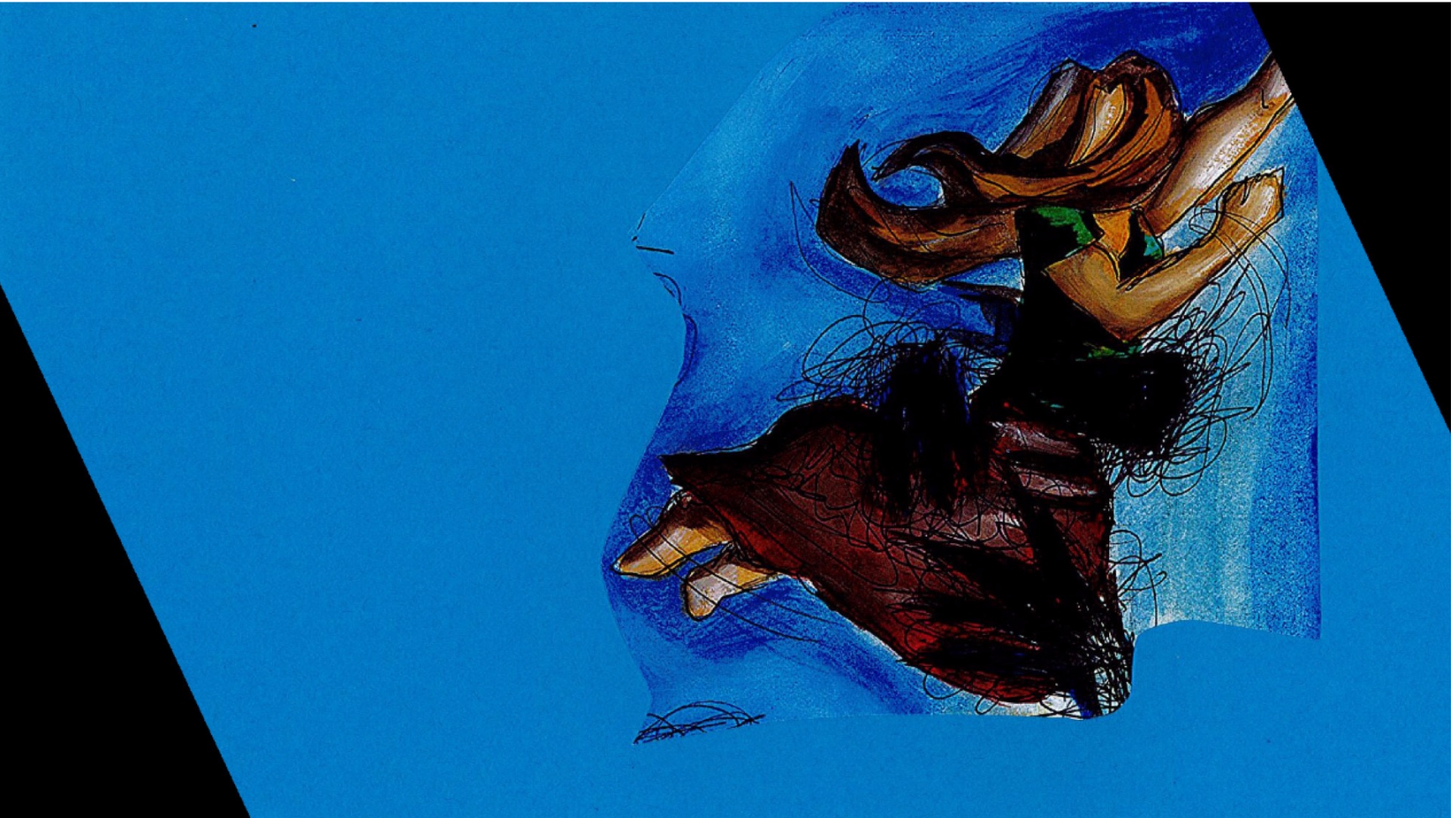
“He never grows weak or weary.
No one can measure the depths of his
understanding.
He gives power to the weak
and strength to the powerless.”

Isaiah 40:28-29 (NLT)

1. The anatomy of **pain and comfort.**











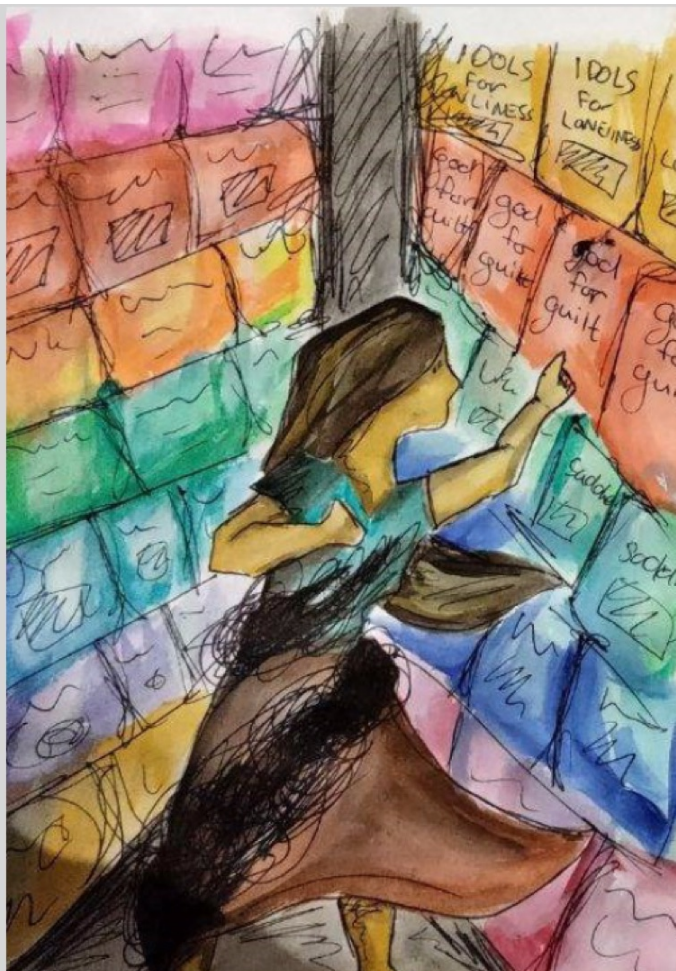


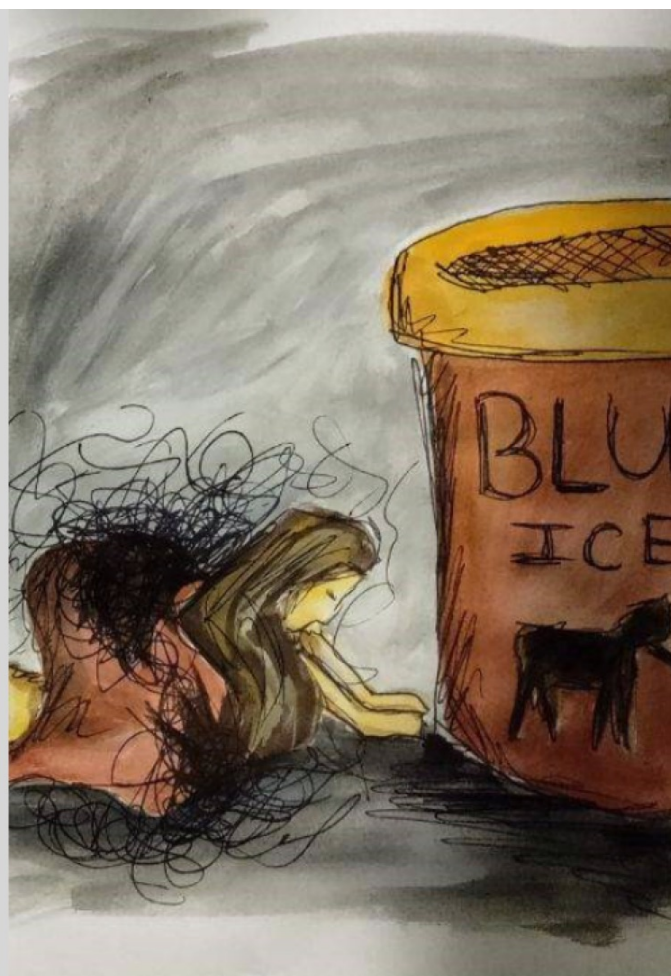
“... an idol formed in a mold, overlaid with gold, and decorated with silver chains”

Isaiah 40:19 (NLT)











“Unconscious despair is concealed even under what are called games and amusements of mankind.”

Henry David Thoreau

1. The anatomy of pain and comfort.

2. A **different kind of comfort**

1. The anatomy of pain and comfort.
2. A different kind of comfort
 - Surprising response - **“Comfort them!”**

“‘Comfort, comfort my people,’ says your God.
‘Speak tenderly to Jerusalem.
Tell her that her sad days are gone
and her sins are pardoned.’”

Isaiah 40:1-2





- Surprising response - “Comfort them!”
- He comes **to be with us in our pain.**

“He will feed his flock like a shepherd.
He will carry the lambs in his arms,
holding them close to his heart.
He will gently lead the mother sheep with
their young.”

Isaiah 40:11





“For I have chosen you
and will not throw you away.
Don’t be afraid, for I am with you.
Don’t be discouraged, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you.”

Isaiah 41:9b-10a (NLT)

“For I, the LORD your God,
hold your right hand;
it is I who say to you, ‘Fear not,
I am the one who helps you.’”

Isaiah 41:13

How does it work?

How does it work?

“Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain
new strength ...”

Isaiah 40:31a (NASB)





“qavah”

“Then God said, ‘Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear’; and it was so.”

Genesis 1:9 (NASB)

“wait for the LORD” = to turn our attention
to God

“Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do
in you.

“When you’re joined with me and I with you,
the relation intimate and organic, the harvest
is sure to be abundant.

“I’ve loved you the way my Father has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love.”

John 15:4,5,9 (MSG)



“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me.

“Get away with me and you’ll recover your life.
I’ll show you how to take a real rest.

“Walk with me and work with me — watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace.

“I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you.
Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live
freely and lightly.”

Matthew 11:28-30 (MSG)

COMFORT SUPERSTORE

BEING FILLED W/ THE SPIRIT

FASTING

LECTIO DIVINA

GENEROSITY

SIMPLICITY

SABBATH

COMMUNITY



“Make a straight highway through the
wasteland for our God!

Fill in the valleys, and level the mountains and
hills.

“Straighten the curves,
and smooth out the rough places.
Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.”

Isaiah 40:3b-5a (NLT)

In my suffering ...

In my suffering ...

- I pray for **relief and deliverance** to a God who hears and cares.

In my suffering ...

- I pray for relief and deliverance to a God who hears and cares.
- I **receive** the legitimate comfort material things can provide.

In my suffering ...

- I pray for relief and deliverance to a God who hears and cares.
- I receive the legitimate comfort material things can provide.
- I hear and receive God's invitation to **press in to his heart.**

“He who learns must suffer. And even in our sleep pain that cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart, and in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom to us by the awful grace of God.”

Aeschylus