

Markings/2

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A collaboration between artist Jamie Treadwell and writer Amin Kurani, for inspiration today.



// When hope comes out of shadows

Two companions are strolling on a mountain road. Beautiful trees surround them. The weather is mild and pleasant. It's a textbook example of the perfect walk. Except for those shadows at the lower end. They tell a different story. One imagines our two hikers walking along when the road took a treacherous turn. It became steep and gravelly, no signs or other hikers in sight. Doubts crowded into their minds. This was the two friends' first time on this particular trail.

In life, such passages often have a way of taking us by surprise. After all, a rough patch wouldn't be a rough patch if we knew what to expect. Caught off guard, we are faced with the decision to pick our way forward, or turn back. Our hikers continued, strengthened by the presence of a companion, confident that things would become smoother.

We see them now with the hard part behind them - but only just. The shadows are a mere two steps away. A pessimist might observe that there will be more shadows to come. True. Yet one could dwell on other things. The sun, for now, is shining brighter. The summer air is thick with the scent of pine sap. And a lush vista is beginning to peek through, nature's way of rewarding them. Come to think of it, their walk into hope was made doubly precious by the shadows they crossed: the beauty before them is more vivid, and the memories of what they achieved are still fresh.

* *"Through Shadows into Hope"* by Jamie Treadwell is available as a limited-edition print. Visit www.jamietreadwell.com for the gallery and blog.