

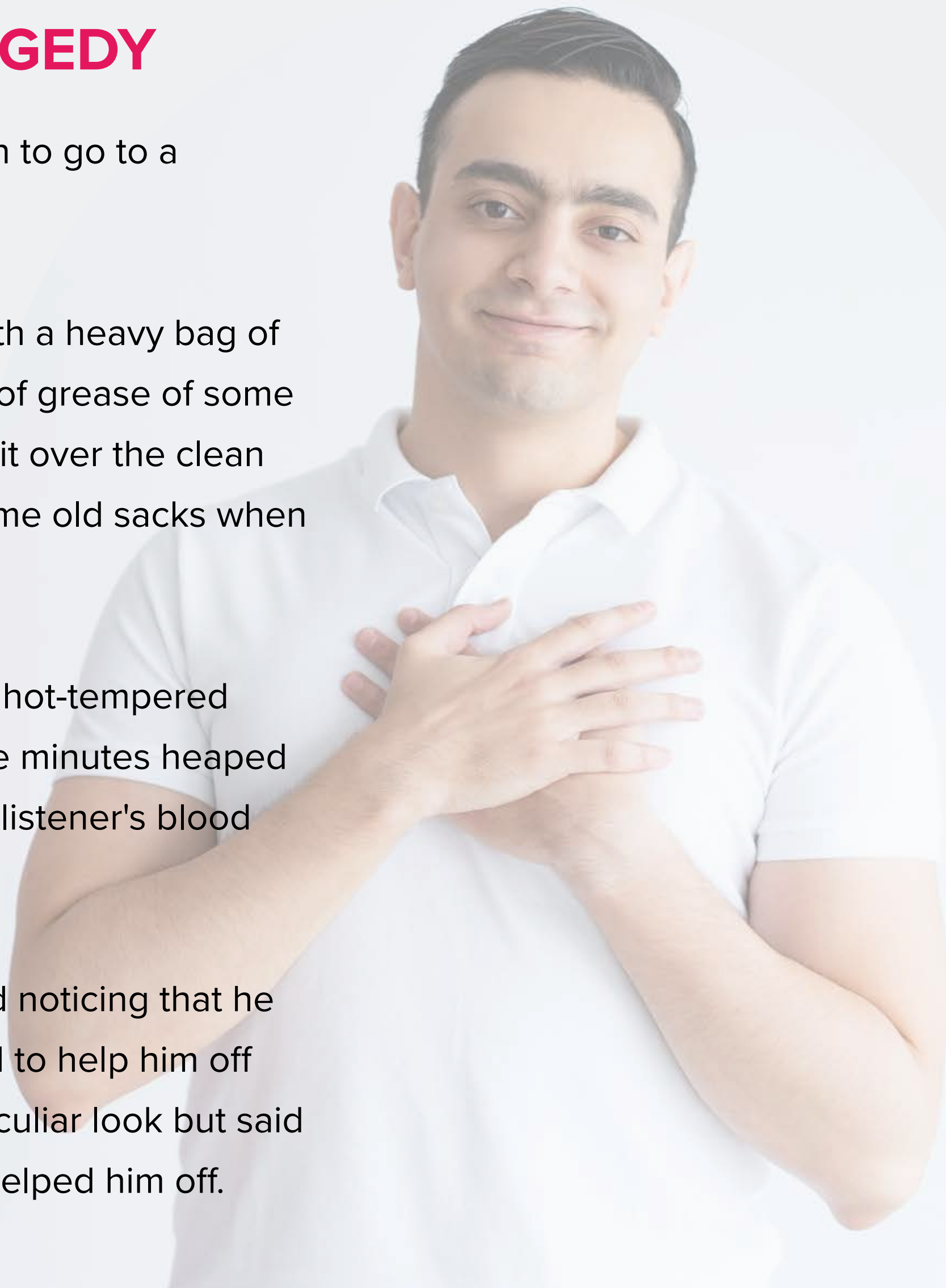
KINDNESS STOPPED A TRAGEDY

A gentleman of Sedalia, Missouri, had occasion to go to a neighbouring town in the train.

A fellow passenger was a carpenter loaded with a heavy bag of tools. Somehow this man stumbled over a tub of grease of some sort, which had melted in the heat, and spilled it over the clean train's floor. He was trying to mop it up with some old sacks when the ticket collector came in.

The carpenter was trying to apologize, but the hot-tempered ticket collector flew into a rage and for fully five minutes heaped upon him such a torrent of abuse as made the listener's blood run cold.

At the next station the man was getting off, and noticing that he looked white and sick, the Sedalia man offered to help him off with his load of tools. The other gave him a peculiar look but said nothing, which he construed as consent, and helped him off.



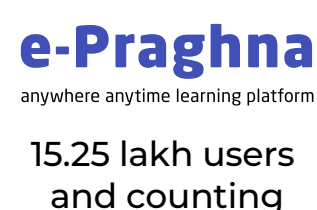
Six years later a man stopped him on the street, asking if he remembered him. He did not, until the man mentioned the incident. "You did a most wonderful service for me that day," he said. "It was only a little act, but it saved me from being a murderer, for I had fully decided to bury my hammer in that ticket collector's head.

Your kind words, breaking so unexpectedly on my dark feelings, caused me to keep back the mad impulse, and I am a free man today.

His heart was too full for reply, but as they clasped hands the tears stood in the eyes of both.

"A gentle response deflects fury, but a harsh word makes tempers rise."
Be always kind and show kindness no matter what.



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