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From the Desk of

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Dear Friends,

This month thousands of people will be declaring their love to each other as they celebrate Valentine's Day. This got me to thinking, "How does God's love toward us show up on a daily basis?"

One of the ways God's unconditional love shows up in our lives is through the universal and spiritual principle of divine order that is always active in our life and affairs when we work with the law. The following Jewish folktale shows how divine order is always at work.

Two men set out on a journey together. They took a donkey to carry their packs, a torch to light their way at night, and a rooster, who was a friend of the donkey. The rooster sat on the donkey's head during the entire journey.

One of the men was very optimistic and looked for the good in all experiences; the second was a skeptic. On the journey they frequently spoke about God. "In all things, God is good," said the optimist.

"We will see if your opinion bears the fruit of truth on the trip," said the skeptic.

Shortly before dusk the two men arrived in a small village where they sought a place to sleep. Despite their frequent requests, no one offered them a night's lodging. Reluctantly, they traveled a mile outside of town, where they decided to sleep.

"I thought you said God is good," the skeptic said sarcastically.

"God has decided this is the best place for us to sleep tonight," replied his friend.

They fixed their beds beneath a large tree, just off the main road that led to the village, tethering the donkey about 30 yards away. Just as they were about to light the torch they heard a horrible noise. A lion had killed the donkey and was dragging it off. Quickly the companions climbed the tree to stay away from danger.

"You still say God is good?" the skeptic asked with anger.

"If the donkey had not been with us, the lion would have attacked and killed us. God is good," declared his friend.

Moments later a cry from the rooster sent them further up the tree. From this new vantage point they saw a wildcat carrying the bird away in his teeth.

"See, once again we are saved, God is good."

A few minutes later a strong wind came up and blew out the torch, the only comfort the men had in the coolness of the black night. "It appears that the goodness of God is working overtime this evening," taunted the skeptic. His companion remained silent.

The next morning the two men walked back into the village for food. They soon discovered that a large band of outlaws had swept into the town that night and robbed the entire village of all its possessions.

With this news the man of faith turned to his friend and said, "Finally it has become clear. Had we been given a room in the village last night, we would have been robbed along with all of the other villagers. If the wind had not blown out our torch, the bandits who traveled the road near the place where we slept would have discovered us and taken all our goods. It is clear, dear friend, that in all things, God is good."

When I look back over my life and all the experiences I have had I have to say that divine order was always at work as God's unconditional love to bring me to where I am right now.

As Unity teaches, *There is only one presence and one power in the Universe and in my life, God the Good, Omnipotent!*