

A heavy load - written by Leigh Riches
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A heavy load.

[Requires - 2 people, 4 giant garbage bags stuffed progressively with more stuffing - ie. pillows, beanbags etc.]

(Man 1 and Dave (carrying a quarter full garbage bag over his shoulder) enter from either side of the stage and meet up at centre stage)

Man: (smiling & friendly) Hi Dave

Dave: (a little startled)oh.....hi.....

Man: (noticing the sack) what's...in the sack there?

Dave: (looking around) huh... what?..... Oh that..... that's nothing..... just stuff I've been collecting.

Man: Oh..... doesn't it get... heavy carrying that around with you all the time?

Dave: Oh...no..... I don't even notice that it's there most of the time.... It's fine.....umm..... I'll see you..... later.

Man: Yeah.... see you.

(Both exit opposite sides of stage and after a few seconds they enter again and meet in the middle at the same spot. Dave's sack is now bigger and fuller.

Man: Hi Dave

Dave: (looking up but wanting to pass by) Hi....

Man: (noticing) Is.... Is that bag getting..... bigger?

Dave: Oh.... (slowly) yeah..... maybe a little. It's nothing that I can't cope with though..... by myself.

Man: Are you sure?..... Because if you need any help.....

Dave: (cutting him off) Oh no..... I can manage it by myself..... really.... I'll be fine.

Man: Well..... if you're... sure....

Dave: Yep..... I'm fine... (walks toward other side of stage, this time with a little more effort required. man also exits stage on opposite side)

(After a few seconds they enter again and meet in the middle at the same spot - the Man get's there first and waits for Dave to make it over. Dave's sack is now getting really big and he's visibly struggling to get to the centre of the stage)

Man: (again, but still cheerful) Hi.....(noticing really big bag over Dave's back) Dave..... you know, that looks awfully heavy.... can I help.....

Dave: What.... (puffing)... this..... No..... I didn't even know it was there until you mentioned it..... besides..... it's my stuff.....I'll take care of it.....

Man: But.... surely that must be getting in the way.... and stopping you from being able to do things.... I mean..... when you're like this...you can't even talk to me properly anymore.

Dave: (As he hobbles off) It really doesn't make that much difference..... I'll manage.

(They both exit - Dave puffing and almost collapsing under the weight. After a few seconds the Man enters again and heads for centre stage. Dave enters and is now dragging a REALLY HUGE bag along the ground. He looks up and sees the man in centre stage about to greet him again)

Man: Hi.....

Dave: (shouting out and cutting him off) It's OK..... I'm fine.....no need to worry..... I'll deal with it..... (he looks toward the other side of the stage, and then changes his mind and starts dragging the big bag back to where he entered from.

Man: (Moves to front microphone) [to congregation] Is there anything that's weighing you down? Jesus said this "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For My Yoke is easy, and My load is light."