

### **Stop Smoking Metaphor- That Foolish Man**

Perhaps you know the story of that foolish man? Most people know the story, but do not want to understand it, I wonder if you can? He was a happy healthy man, as people are in the beginning, lulled into temptation by the lapping waves, offering their false gift. It won't be the first or last time that gift is offered. People don't consider the implications. For what appeared to be a message in a glass green bottle, was in fact a map on yellowed paper, a map that would lead him to a deadly treasure.

Of course, upon finding the map, he is instantly filled with a mixture of emotions, as he remembers the legend, traditionally told of those who had perished in the company of the treasure, never to return. Considering the qualities that the treasure may offer, he ponders. Noticing this, the lapping waves, as if reading his mind, almost seem to gently whisper to him, encouraging him to begin.

After a brief investigation, he is surprised at how easily he finds the treasure at the back of the cave. Unusual sounds reverberate off the stone walls, seeming to come from nowhere and everywhere. Feeling concerned, with each and every footstep he takes, murmurs and echoes seem to implore him to turn back. Perhaps it was someone who loves you, who told you to stop and turn back? Still he continued.

There's a stench. Staleness pervades the air, so that he can almost taste it, dirty air. His eyes have difficulty adjusting to the darkness, but they eventually do, and he notices a silky red cloth covering a box of sorts. Could this red cloth be a warning? He does not question. He tears and peels back the cloth, as he does, a cloud of

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filthy dust explodes into the air, choking him into fits of coughs, covering his face and the insides of his nostrils with a dry grime. Wiping the dust from his eyes, he sees the treasure, glowing misleadingly.

This glow lightens the cave only enough for him to recognize the skeletons around him, cant you? Immediately, he realises the truth disguised within the treasure and vows to free himself of this fate. But every time he tries to leave, he fears what will happen if he should leave. Will he be the same without the treasure? He assumes he can't cope. I mean, do you already know someone that has?

For a long time he is drawn back to it to it, whenever he tries to leave, growing stuffy and stale within. The air of decay is around. He grows weaker in each and every cell. His skin beginning to grey and age, but still he is invaded by the obsession of the treasure.

Unsure of how much time has passed, he grows lonely and ashamed, seeing others happy and healthy, he is not, enjoying their lives in the sun.

As the cave grows darker, he becomes desperate to leave and calls out for support, commanding someone to hear his cry. Responding, a member of a ships crew, comes to the entrance of the cave and holds up his lantern.

This illumination of the cave, gives him the ability to see clearly. He draws in a deep breath at the sight of the treasure now visible, as a can of worms, squirming and sliming. Repulsed by the reality of all he has wasted, he quickly moves away with ease and certainty, stepping out of the cave, into the clean fresh air.

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As the sun rises his cells are reforming, he is growing strong and healthy, his mind is free in the knowledge that he will never return to that dark place. And now he can enjoy the earth in all its beauty.