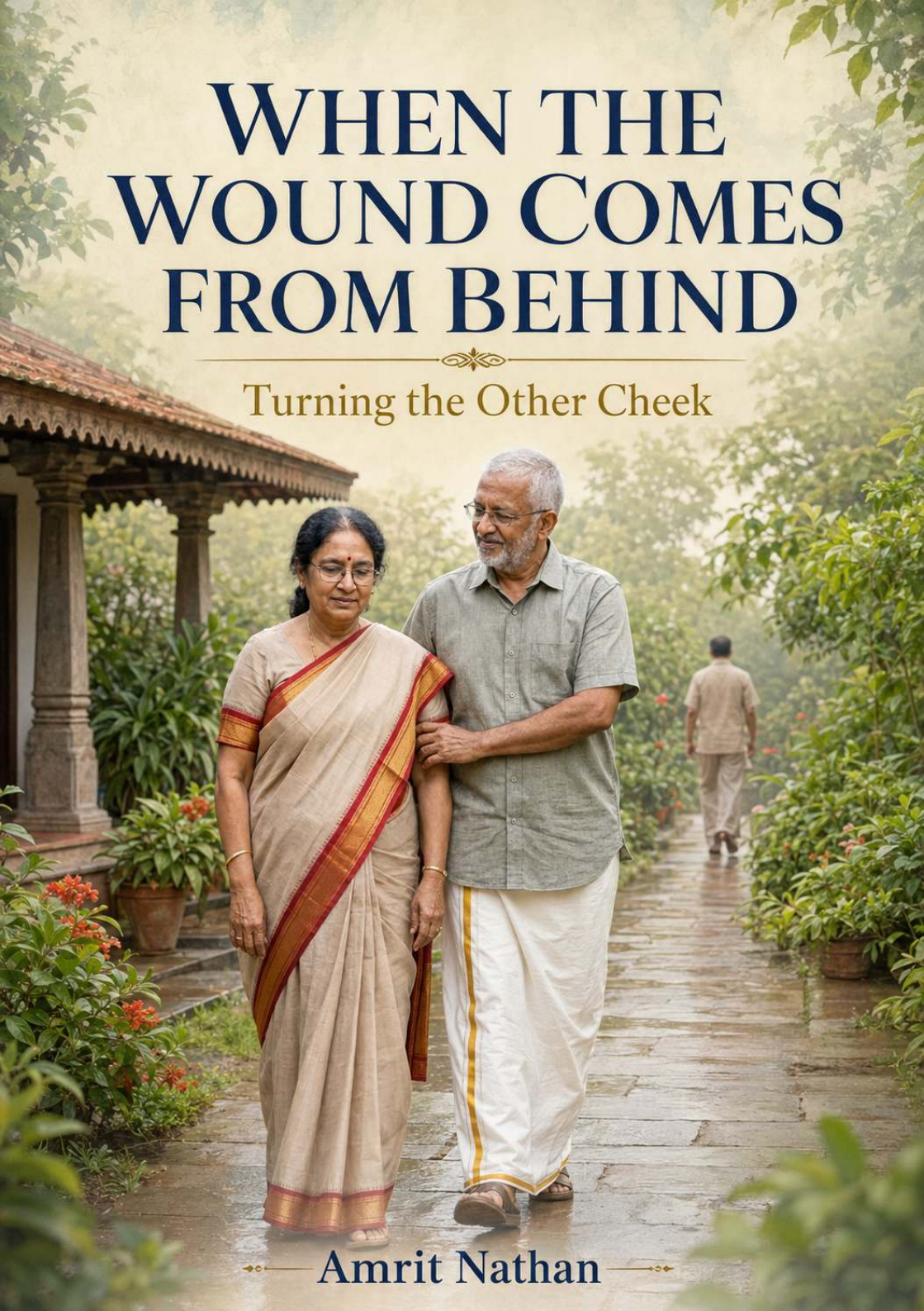


WHEN THE WOUND COMES FROM BEHIND



Turning the Other Cheek



Amrit Nathan



WHY THE RIGHT CHEEK?

But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

— Matthew 5:39, NKJV

Why did Yahshua specifically mention the right cheek?

A person standing in front can strike the right cheek with a backhand. But the right cheek can be struck more naturally by someone standing behind us.

What if Yahshua's words also describe the wound of betrayal—the unexpected blow delivered from behind by someone we trusted? We commonly call such an offence a backstab.

If the blow comes from behind, we must first turn around before we can offer the other cheek. That act of turning reveals a willingness to face the offender with a forgiving approach.

Forgiveness turns toward the person who caused the wound—but refuses to return the same spirit in which the wound was given.

Turning the other cheek does not approve betrayal, remove wise boundaries, or require us to remain in danger. Forgiveness acknowledges the offence without becoming controlled by resentment or revenge.

When the wound comes from behind, forgiveness enables us to turn, face it—and respond with a different spirit.



THE DEEPER WOUND OF BETRAYAL

An enemy may wound us from the front. But betrayal usually comes from someone who was already close enough to stand behind us.

*Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted,
Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.
— Psalm 41:9, NKJV*

Betrayal enters through a door that trust opened.

The offender may be:

- ✦ A friend who exposed our confidence
- ✦ A relative who used private knowledge against us
- ✦ A colleague who falsely accused us
- ✦ Someone whose loyalty we never questioned
- ✦ A loved one who repaid kindness with injury

The wound is deeper because we did not expect to defend ourselves against that person.

The flesh says: 'Expose them. Strike back.
Make them feel what they made you feel.'

But retaliation allows the betrayer's spirit to reproduce itself within us.

Forgiveness does not erase the memory or instantly restore trust.
It prevents the wound from becoming bitterness—and
bitterness from becoming our new character.

We may remember what happened. We may establish distance.
We may require trust to be rebuilt. But we refuse to carry
the offence as a weapon against the offender—or
as poison within ourselves.

The deepest wound is not
always the blow we receive—
but the bitterness we
allow it to create.

DO NOT RETURN THE SAME SPIRIT

The natural response to betrayal is retaliation. We want to expose the offender, defend our reputation, recover our dignity and make the other person experience the pain they caused.

*Repay no one evil for evil... Do not be overcome by evil,
but overcome evil with good.*

— Romans 12:17, 21, NKJV

Turning the other cheek does not mean becoming passive before evil.

It means refusing to return the same spirit.

Forgiveness allows us to:

- ✦ Speak the truth without hatred
- ✦ Establish boundaries without bitterness
- ✦ Seek justice without revenge
- ✦ Remember the lesson without carrying the poison
- ✦ Entrust final judgment to God

Forgiveness does not always restore a relationship immediately. Trust may need to be rebuilt slowly. In some situations, distance may remain necessary. Reconciliation requires truth, repentance and change from both sides.

**But forgiveness can begin within us even before
the offender acknowledges the wrong.**

When we release our demand for personal revenge, the betrayer no longer controls our thoughts, emotions or future. We are free to turn away from the offence and continue walking forward.

The betrayer wounded
us from behind.
Forgiveness enables us to
turn, face it—and continue
walking forward in a
different spirit.

