

Deck of Cards

Vaughn Monroe

"DURING THE SOUTH VIETNAM CAMPAIGN, A GROUP OF SOLDIERS RETURNED TO SAIGON, AFTER MANY WEEKS OF HEAVY JUNGLE FIGHTING.

THE NEXT DAY BEING SUNDAY, SEVERAL OF THE BOYS ATTENDED CHURCH SERVICES. AFTER THE CHAPLAIN READ THE PRAYER, THE TEXT WAS TAKEN UP. THOSE OF THE BOYS WHO HAD PRAYER BOOKS TOOK THEM OUT. BUT ONE BOY HAD ONLY A DECK OF CARDS AND HE SPREAD THEM OUT. THE SERGEANT IN CHARGE SAW THE CARDS AND SAID, 'SOLDIER, PUT THOSE CARDS AWAY!'

AFTER THE SERVICES WERE OVER, THE SOLDIER WAS TAKEN PRISONER AND BROUGHT BEFORE THE PROVOST MARSHAL.

THE MARSHAL SAID, 'SERGEANT, WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT THIS MAN HERE?'

'FOR PLAYING CARDS IN CHURCH, SIR.'

'AND WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF, SON?'

'MUCH, SIR', THE SOLDIER REPLIED.

'YOU SEE SIR, I HAVE BEEN IN THE JUNGLE FOR SIX WEEKS. I HAVE NEITHER A BIBLE NOR A PRAYER BOOK. BUT I HOPE TO SATISFY YOU, SIR, WITH THE PURITY OF MY INTENTIONS, YOU SEE SIR, WHEN I LOOK AT THE ACE, IT REMINDS ME THERE'S BUT ONE GOD.

AND WHEN I SEE THE DEUCE, IT REMINDS ME THAT THE BIBLE IS DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS, THE OLD AND THE NEW TESTAMENTS.

AND WHEN I SEE THE TREY, I THINK OF THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY GHOST.

AND WHEN I SEE THE FOUR, I THINK OF THE FOUR EVANGELISTS WHO PREACHED THE GOSPEL; MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, AND JOHN.

AND WHEN I SEE THE FIVE, IT REMINDS ME OF THE FIVE WISE VIRGINS WHO TRIMMED THEIR LAMPS. THERE WERE TEN OF THEM. FIVE WERE WISE AND WERE SAVED, FIVE OF THEM WERE FOOLISH AND WERE SHUT OUT.

AND WHEN I SEE THE SIX, IT REMINDS ME THAT IN SIX DAYS, GOD MADE THIS GREAT HEAVEN AND EARTH.

AND WHEN I SEE THE SEVEN, IT REMINDS ME THAT ON THE SEVENTH DAY, GOD RESTED.

AND WHEN I SEE THE EIGHT, I SEE THE EIGHT RIGHTEOUS PERSONS GOD SAVED WHEN HE DESTROYED THE EARTH; NOAH, HIS WIFE, THEIR SONS AND THEIR WIVES.

AND WHEN I SEE THE NINE, I SEE THE LEPERS OUR SAVIOR CLEANSED, AND NINE OUT OF THE TEN DIDN'T EVEN THANK HIM.

WHEN I SEE THE TEN, I THINK OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS GOD HANDED TO MOSES ON A TABLE OF STONE.

AND WHEN I SEE THE KING, IT REMINDS ME AGAIN, THAT THERE IS BUT ONE KING OF HEAVEN, GOD ALMIGHTY.

AND WHEN I SEE THE QUEEN, I THINK OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, WHO IS QUEEN OF HEAVEN.

AND THE JACK IS THE DEVIL.

AND WHEN I COUNT THE NUMBER OF SPOTS ON A DECK OF CARDS, I FIND

365, THE NUMBER OF DAYS IN A YEAR. THERE ARE 52 CARDS, THE NUMBER OF WEEKS IN A YEAR. THERE ARE THIRTEEN TRICKS, THE NUMBER OF WEEKS IN A QUARTER. THERE ARE FOUR SUITS, THE NUMBER OF WEEKS IN A MONTH. THERE ARE TWELVE PICTURE CARDS, THE NUMBER OF MONTHS IN A YEAR.

SO YOU SEE SIR, MY DECK OF CARDS HAS SERVED ME AS A BIBLE, AN ALMANAC, AND PRAYER BOOK.'

'AND FRIENDS THIS STORY IS TRUE BECAUSE I KNEW THAT SOLDIER.'"