

## *Of Monkeys & Dragons excerpt-*

"As a student I was somewhat of a "sponge," soaking up every word that was taught me. I loved to learn and I was a good student. I was fascinated with medicine, every aspect of it. There was, however, an incident that happened that awakened me out of my unquestioning acceptance that everything that was taught to me was the absolute truth.

Early on, I was told that diseases have certain absolute characteristics -- "laws" that are associated with each affliction. No matter what the disease is, there will be definite, predictable patterns and expectations accompanying that disease. It's taught that way, believed that way, expected that way, and experienced that way. It never occurred to me to challenge any of it. At that time I would have had no reason to.

Until one day a woman was admitted to the hospital with a massive stroke. She was paralyzed on her right side and unable to talk. It was expected that she would be in that condition for the remainder of her life. The plan was to stabilize her, then send her to a nursing home for long term care until she died.

I noticed that she had no visitors, so I made a point of spending a lot of extra time with her. Soon we became great buddies. I began to notice that she would try to talk and force herself to do things that should have been impossible for her to do because of the stroke. I could tell that she was attempting these things in order to please me. I didn't want to encourage her because I didn't want her to be disappointed when she failed. But I never tried to stop her either. I just watched.

Early one day I was running down the hall past her room, late for "report." I waved as I flew by and then came to a screeching stop and retraced my steps. She was not in her bed, but the side rails were up and the covers still rumpled. For a second I thought that she had died during the night and I froze. Then I saw something I never would have believed possible. She had climbed out of the bed, over the side rails and made her way across the room. She was sitting up in a chair with the proudest smile on her face. This lady progressed on to walk again and talk again, things she should have never been able to do. She literally defied the "law" of that disease. Something motivated her, beyond the stubborn and relentless symptoms of that affliction, with all the power given it by the beliefs of man. Something like the Spirit of Life rose up within her and she said, "no!"

That was the turning point in my thinking. If she could do that, what other "laws" of disease could be challenged and defeated? What factors were required? Was it available for all that would desire it? Disease with all its horror, flaunting its ugly devastation in the face of its victims, lost some of its power and substance for me that day."