The Monkey’s Paw

Sergeant-Major Morris who has just came back from India paid a visit to the Whites and showed them a dried monkey’s paw which had a spell put on it. One could have three wishes from “the monkey’s paw,” but Sergeant-Major Morris said it would bring a disaster and threw it upon the fire. Mr. White stooped down and snatched it up. “If you don’t want it Morris, give it to me,” said Mr. White. “I threw it in the fire. If you want it, you may keep it,” he replied. After the guest left, Mr. White took out the paw and wished for 200 pounds.

The paw moved and Mr. White was startled. The next morning, a gentleman knocked on the door. “I come from Maw and Meggins your son’s employer. Herbert was caught in the machinery. Badly hurt, but he is not in any more pain.” The visitor said quietly. The Whites were dumbfounded.

“I beg that you will understand. I am only their servant and merely obeying orders. I was to say that Maw and Meggins disclaim all responsibility. They admit no liability at all, but in consideration
of your son’s services, they wish to present you with a certain sum as compensation.”

Mr. White gazed with a look of horror at his visitor. His dry lips shaped the words, “How much?” “200 pounds,” was the answer.


The talisman fell to the floor, and he regarded it fearfully. After a while, a knock sounded on the front door. “What’s that?” cried Mr. White, starting up. “It’s my son!” she screamed. She ran to the door. He heard the chain rattle back and the bottom bolt drawn slowly and stiffly from the socket. But her husband was on his hands and knees groping wildly on the floor in search of the paw. “For God’s sake, don’t let it
Words of Wisdom

This is the plot of W. W. Jacobs’ “The Monkey’s Paw.” The story gives us insight on what we should think about while we are in this world. What is more important “what we’ve got or what we’ve lost?” How can you compare 200 pounds with the life of your son? You have to think about it deeply. Are you losing anything precious while your heart is set on satisfying desires in your life? While we are achieving something and satisfying our fleshly desires, we are, without our knowledge, losing and destroying something more precious... faith, love, hope, etc.

(Condensed from the Monkey’s Paw by W. W. Jacobs)