

## *Shiner*

**By:** Shamil Fattakhov/Ian Reed  
**Place:** Russia  
**Date:** 1996  
**Topic:** Fighting  
**Message:** *Strength of character is more impressive than brawn.*  
**Characters:** Stephanie, Sam, and John  
**Setting:** Class in the school

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*Stephanie and Sam are sitting in the class.*

**Sam:** So what are you doing at the night?

**Stephanie:** I don't know yet. I was thinking about working on my homework.

**Sam:** You are working on your homework every night!

**Stephanie:** I know...

**Sam:** Okay, **we're** all going to see a movie tonight, you should come.

**Stephanie:** Hey, look who's here!

**Sam:** Appearance of St. John to the people!

**Stephanie:** Hey John, what's wrong with your eye?

**Sam:** I don't believe my eyes! Straight A-student, pride and joy of his parents, school hero, descendant of **48 noblemen**, and he's got a big black eye!

**Stephanie:** John, why don't you tell us what happened?

**John:** Don't worry about it.

**Sam:** Wait a minute! You were at Carl's birthday party last night! Were they handing out shiners at the party?

**John:** Well... sort of... yes.

**Stephanie:** You know, John, we'll take you home, give you a massage, put an ice pack on your face, and you'll be a shiny new penny within a week!

**Sam:** Don't worry about it—all over the world, millions before you, and millions today walk around with big bruises.

**Stephanie:** John, why don't you tell us what happened?

**John:** What do you want me to say? We sat, we talked, we danced. I danced with Kathy.

**Stephanie:** Kathy... the captain of the cheer leading team?

**John:** No, Kathy that plays soccer.

**Sam:** And what? She socked you in the eye?

**Stephanie:** Sam, stop teasing him. What really happened?

**John:** Well, we were leaving the party, and there were these three guys and... You know.

**Stephanie:** And she?

**John:** She watched! And afterwards, she conveyed her condolences.

**Stephanie:** And did you drive her home?

**John:** Yes I did but...

**Sam:** Oh, I understand. She didn't express her desire to meet again, right?

**John:** Well, right.

**Sam:** You know what guys? There is only one solution to this problem! We have to have strong muscles; we have to have strong iron fists! Nobody can survive nowadays without strength!

**Stephanie:** Oh, give me a break Sam! The time for physical strength to rule went out of style like tyranny. Important things like intellect, intuition - that's ruling our society today!

**Sam:** Not at all, all these things are good, but life is becoming too dangerous. It's like we are living in a jungle! Each day, each second, we have to be ready to show our teeth and dodge the hit, and fight back!

**Stephanie:** Why?

**Sam:** So that they fear you, and then you get respect!

**John:** What about friends?

**Sam:** What friends? Friends will turn on you just like anybody else!

**John:** Wait a second! So **you're** telling me that if I get in your way you **are** going to try to destroy me?

**Sam:** Why not? Of course I will!

**John:** Then you should know that I'm against you! I'm against violence! You wanna hit me? You Stallone wanna-be! You Van Damme tough guy! Come on! Just try it!

**Sam:** Fine, I will!

**Stephanie:** Stop it!

## DISCUSSION

**Stephanie:** Stop it! Sam, please, please understand that this is very dangerous. I mean... Look at yourself! **You're** becoming a fighting machine! Remember this: "He who raises the sword, from the sword he'll die"? Evil added to evil can only produce more evil.

**John:** You know, this is what I'm going to do. I won't fight back, **I'm going to** treat my black eye and I am just...

**Stephanie:** What?

**Sam:** Yeah...?

**John:** I'll tell them that I'm not angry with them and that love and respect cannot be gained by violence.

**Stephanie:** Hey, that's not too bad... I bet nobody has told them that before! This will work, I'm sure! This is much different than a sock in the eye! Plus it's the 21st century, right?

**Sam:** (*Turns to John*). Your bruise is pretty ugly, John, you could scare anyone and be safe for a while. Are you sure you want us to fix you up?

**Stephanie:** We'll do something. We don't want Mr. Pride and Joy here get his reputation hurt at school on Monday! And, I have supplies at my house.

**Sam:** We'll have you looking like a shiny penny in no time! Let's **go** have some fun!

*They move off together.*