



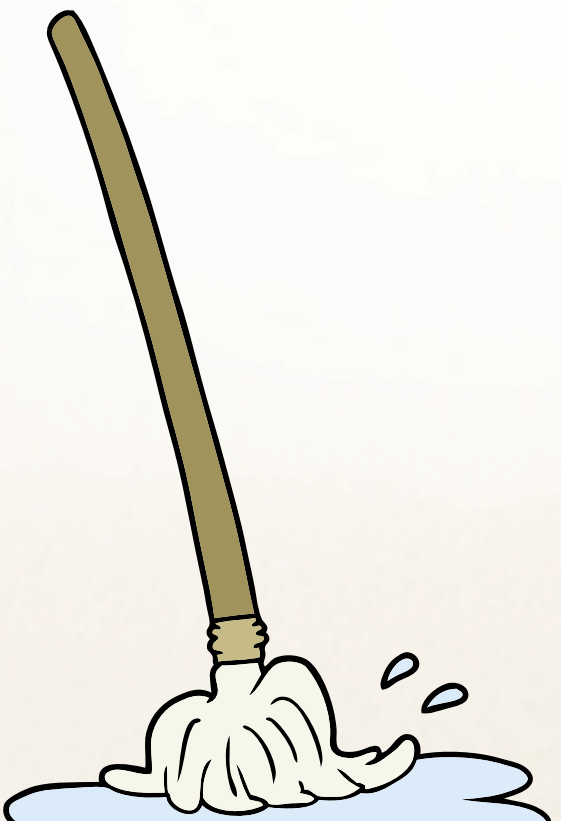
STOP

S = Situation or historical context

T = Type of literature

O = Object or who you're talking to

P = Prescription or description



Acts 28:3, 5

compressed view

...a viper came out of the heat, and fastened
on his hand.

And he shook off the beast into the fire, and
felt no harm.

Acts 28:1-5

Once safely on shore, we found out that the island was called Malta. ² The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold. ³ Paul gathered a pile of brushwood and, as he put it on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand. ⁵ But Paul shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no ill effects.

Shake It Off

A Spiritual reFLEX

Every believer should possess

FLEXing on mental and physical attacks

“Sirs, I **perceive** that this voyage will be with
hurt and much damage...”

— Acts 27:10

Before the wreck, Paul actually warned them not to sail







Acts 28:4-5

⁴ When the islanders saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said to each other, "This man must be a murderer; for though he escaped from the sea, the goddess Justice has not allowed him to live."⁵ But Paul shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no ill effects.

Acts 28:6

6 The people expected him to swell up or suddenly fall dead; but after waiting a long time and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and said he was a god.

They had already written the ending before the story finished.
Some people see one snake bite and already start planning your funeral.
Be careful listening to people whose first reflex is panic.

What if Acts 28:5 Read like this...

“Double A” Translation

A viper came out of the heat and latched onto Paul's hand. But Paul's re-flex kicked in immediately. He looked at that thing like, 'Hold up.. what is this attached to me?' He recognized it was foreign, dangerous, not from God. The Bible even calls it a beast. Paul did not pet it, or panic over it. He shook that thing off QUICK, FAST, and in a hurry into the fire so it could be destroyed once and for all. Yeah, it bit him...but it did not stay on him long enough to poison him.

Acts 28:7-9

⁷ There was an estate nearby that belonged to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us to his home and showed us generous hospitality for three days. ⁸ His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him. ⁹ When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured.

Looks like Mark 16:18 to me

Acts 28:8-11

...they honored us in many ways; and when we were ready to sail, they furnished us with the supplies we needed

9 When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured. 10 They honored us in many ways; and when we were ready to sail, they furnished us with the supplies we needed.

Acts 28:11

¹¹ After three months we put out to sea in a ship that had wintered in the island—it was an Alexandrian ship with the figurehead of the twin gods Castor and Pollux.

The ship marked by false gods on the (bow) was being used to carry a man of God into divine purpose.

Acts 28:3, 5

compressed view

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on his hand.

And he shook off the beast into the fire, and
felt no harm.

Paul, how was your reFLEX so easy, effective, powerful?

- Your flex today comes from yesterday's discipline
- Today's strength is built on yesterday's habits
- Today's reflexes come from yesterday's repetition
- Your response today reveals what you practiced yesterday
- Paul shook it off publicly because he prepared privately

6 Ways To Build Your reFLEX

1. Recognize the viper
2. Return to consecration (fasting & praying)
3. Refuse to pretend
4. Release it into the fire
5. Root yourself in the Word
6. Refresh your dome and ears

John 4:1

“Try the spirits whether they are of God...”

Hebrews 5:14

“...discern both good and evil.”

James 1:17

Every good and perfect gift comes from

above ἄνωθεν (ano^hthen)

“Heavenly Origin”

#2 Return to consecration

Matthew 17:21

“This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.”

Acts 13:2

“As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted...”

Mark 9:14-29

1. "Whatever you ignore in its infant stage may grow strong enough to control the house later."
2. "If you ignore a problem while it is young, don't be surprised when it grows stubborn with time."
3. "What starts as a tolerated issue can become a tormenting stronghold."
4. "A neglected spirit becomes a stubborn struggle."
5. "Things ignored in childhood often return stronger in adulthood."
6. "If you pet it when it is small, you may have to wrestle it when it grows."
7. "Unaddressed problems mature too."

Let's pick a day this week to do this

Let's corporately plan a fast

Let's jump on a Zoom and pray for 1 hour