

Snake Bites

Someone once pointed out that snake bites are not a serious problem. In fact, most snake bites are rather superficial wounds that barely pierce the skin. The serious issue is the venom or poison that is introduced into the system which can cause illness and/or death.

Harry was in a medium security prison at the end of a long sentence. He hadn't heard from his wife in some time and received information from other people that there may be trouble at home. He began to imagine all kinds of things and, since he worked outside on the farm, he decided to run away and go home to settle things. He eventually was apprehended and years were added to his sentence and he was returned to a maximum security facility.

Jim had been in a recovery center for about two months when he went to see his wife for his first two-hour visit. Both were quite apprehensive since they had not seen each other for over two years. Prior to that, they both had been hopelessly addicted to drugs but Helen (Jim's wife) had been clean for the past two years and is now working a job and caring for their two children. Jim was looking forward to living together again with his family.

Three days after his visit Jim received a letter from Helen informing him that she did not want to see him again since she was afraid they both would end up back on drugs. She did not feel secure enough in her recovery to deal with their relationship at this time. Jim decided to hit the streets again.

Triggers or "snake bites" contribute to and add to what makes the human struggle "painful and deep." We live in the kind of world where a minor event can carry a costly price. Generally, most snake bites are not caused by poisonous snakes. In prison, however, rattlesnakes prosper and most snake bites carry serious consequences.