**Greetings**

**Jesus entered a certain village,**

**where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home.**

***(St. Luke 10:38)***

**Aloha friends: Aloha means “I love you.” It is a greeting constantly used in Hawaii instead of “hello” or “goodbye.” *(Jack E. Addington)***

**Beer is believed to have been a staple before bread. In ancient Egypt, “bread and beer” was a common greeting. Early Egyptian writings urged mothers to send their children to school with plenty of bread and beer for their lunch. *(Noel Botham, in The Amazing Book of Useless Information. p. 197)***

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**Elephants will greet each other by clasping trunks, similar to a human handshake. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 153)***

**Elephants perform greeting ceremonies when a member of the group returns after a long time away. The welcoming animals spin around, flap their ears, and trumpet.(Noel Botham, in *The Book of Useless Information, p. 265)***

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**The Eskimos, or Inuits, don’t rub noses when kissing, but practice a greeting known as kunik, where the nose and upper lip are pressed against the cheek or forehead of another and their scent is breathed in. (Don Voorhees, in The Super Book of Useless Information, p. 91)**

**The damp north wind was blowing a chill off the moors. It would be good to be inside on an evening like this. The American drew his coat collar tighter as he made his way to the home of his Scottish friend. Ralph Waldo Emerson and Thomas Carlyle had enjoyed a strong friendship through correspondence for many years before they actually met. Now, after all that time, Emerson had finally come to Europe, making a special journey to Scotland, so that he could at last meet the renowned essayist and historian face-to-face. When Emerson arrived for the momentous occasion, Carlyle greeted him warmly, offered him a pipe, and then lighted one for himself. The great men then sat together in virtual silence until it was time to retire for the night. At that point the two warmly shook hands and praised each other for the fruitful evening they had shared together. (Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest , p. 127)**

**Halo: a greeting used by angels. *(Marvin Friedman with Steve Lawhead in Campus Life)***

**As manager of an ice-cream shop, I greeted a mother and her two sons, who were eager to place their orders for a milkshake and a banana split. “And you, ma’am, what would you like?” I asked the mother. “Nothing today,” she replied. “I’m on a diet.” Perturbed, one son looked up at her. “Aw, Mom,” he said, “does that mean you’re going to help me eat mine again?” (Lamar Logan, in Reader’s Digest)**

**When members of the nature-worshipping Southern Indian tribe Todas greet one another they thumb their noses instead of shaking hands. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 164)***

**During the first quarter of the 20th century, new immigrants entering Ellis Island in New York City were served Jell-O as a "Welcome to America."**

***(Charlotte Lowe, in Fact-O-Pedia, p. 135)***

**The normal greeting, “How Are You?” should be an opportunity to express the good you are experiencing and not an organ recital of all your aches and pains. *(Jim Ockley)***

**The first president to shake hands in greeting was Thomas Jefferson. Earlier presidents bowed. *(Uncle John's Bathroom Reader: Extraordinary Book of Facts, p. 163)***

**In the late 1800s and early 1900s, a familiar sight greeted ships as they pulled into the port of Savannah, Georgia. That sight was Florence Martus, "The Waving Girl." For 44 years, Florence greeted the great ships from around the world, waving a handkerchief by day or a lantern by night. Today a statue of Florence and her faithful dog stand in Savannah's Morrell Park, permanently welcoming incoming vessels. (*Bill Crowder, in Our Daily Bread)***

**There are two ways we can meet a difficulty: either we can alter the difficulty or we can alter ourselves to meet it. *(Bits & Pieces)***

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