

**Daring to live**

**On The**

**EDGE!**

--Excerpts from a text by Loren Cunningham



# Is the life of faith worth it?

If you have ever experienced it,  
it truly ruins you for the ordinary.

Living the life of faith is like  
walking on a tightrope.

It is an incredible thrill!

In the 1800s, an acrobat named Blondin (Jean-Francois Gravlet) became famous for crossing Niagara Falls by tightrope many times, usually with no safety net.

One day a crowd gathered at the falls to watch his most dangerous attempt yet. He planned to push a wheelbarrow loaded with a heavy sack of cement across the tightrope.

**60** AKRON BEACON JOURNAL **EXTRA**  
AKRON, FRIDAY, SEPT. 14, 1860

## BLONDIN CROSSES NIAGARA

**Balances On Tight Rope**  
Charles Blondin, acrobat, today performed the incredible stunt of crossing the Niagara Falls on a tightrope high over the water, balancing precariously on stilts. He made several trips across, one of them while blindfolded, pushing a



**Mr. Blondin practising**

wheelbarrow. These earlier stunts provided the experi-

**French Acrobat Uses Stilts**  
The rope used by Blondin was 1,100 feet long, and was strung a hundred and sixty feet above the roaring falls. A huge crowd held its breath as it watched the Frenchman in his daring, dangerous feats, defying gravity.

BY C. C. RICHMOND

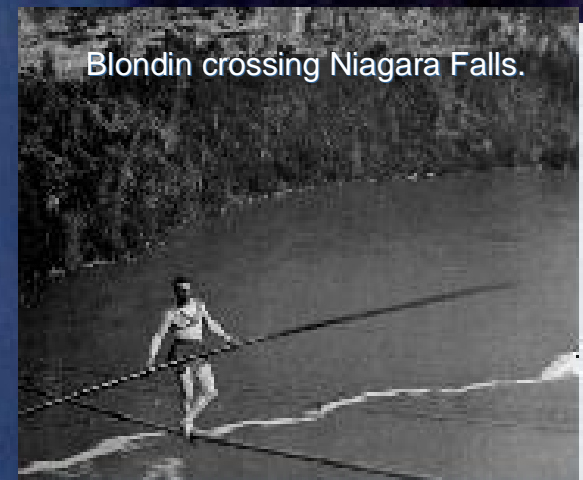
See Scoop No. 61 — BEGINNING OF THE BERLIN AIRLIFT



With that extra weight, the slightest miscalculation could tip the wheelbarrow and twist him off the wire, plunging him to death 160 feet below in the raging waters.

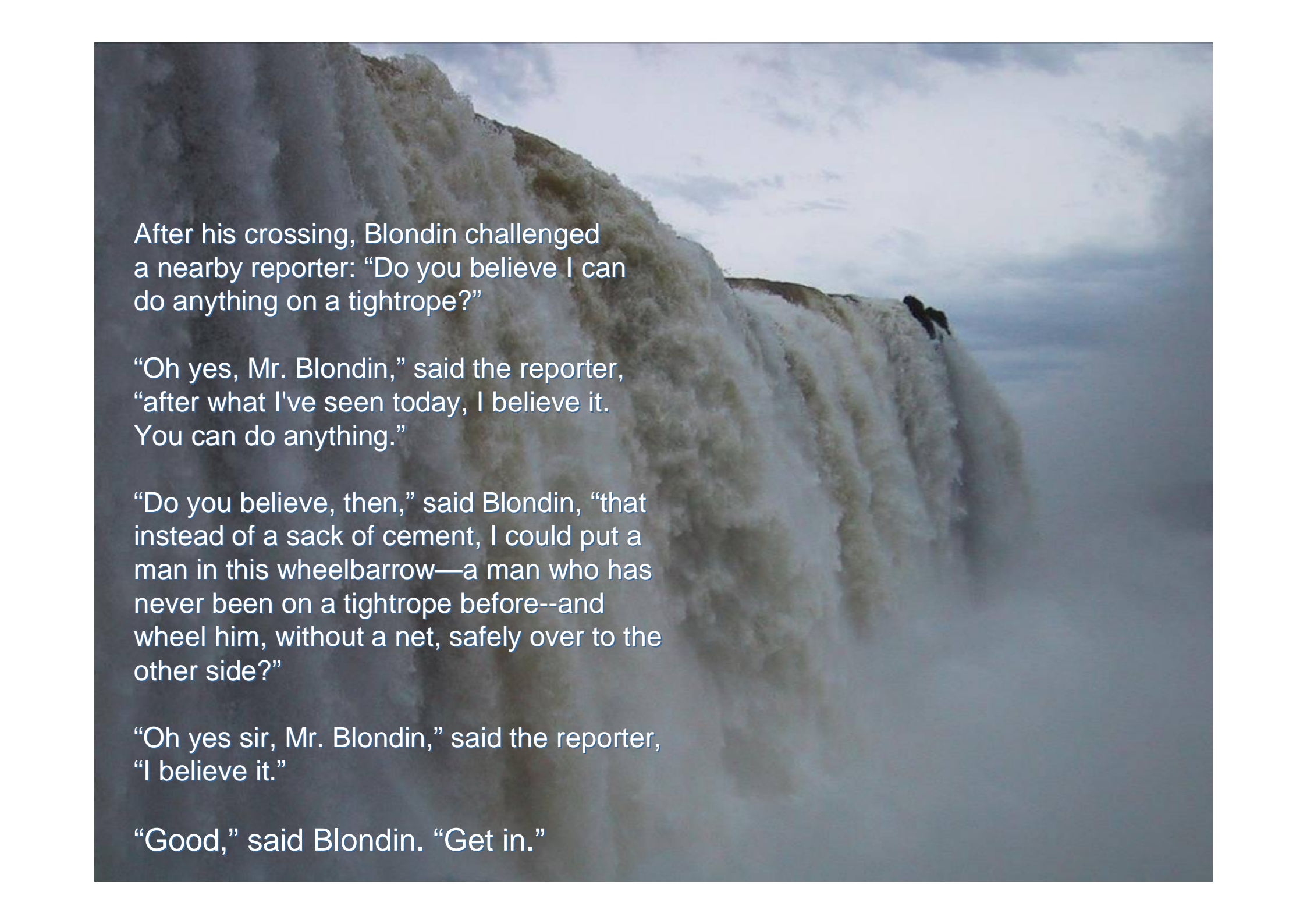
Thousands watched breathlessly as he made his way across, placing one foot carefully in front of the other, quietly pushing the wheelbarrow across the spray-filled chasm, oblivious to the roar of the water beneath him.

When he made it to the other side, the throng let out its collective breath and cheered. What a feat!



Blondin crossing Niagara Falls.



A dramatic photograph of a person, presumably Blondin, crossing a massive waterfall on a tightrope. The person is a small silhouette against the vast, white, churning water of the falls. The sky is overcast and grey. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

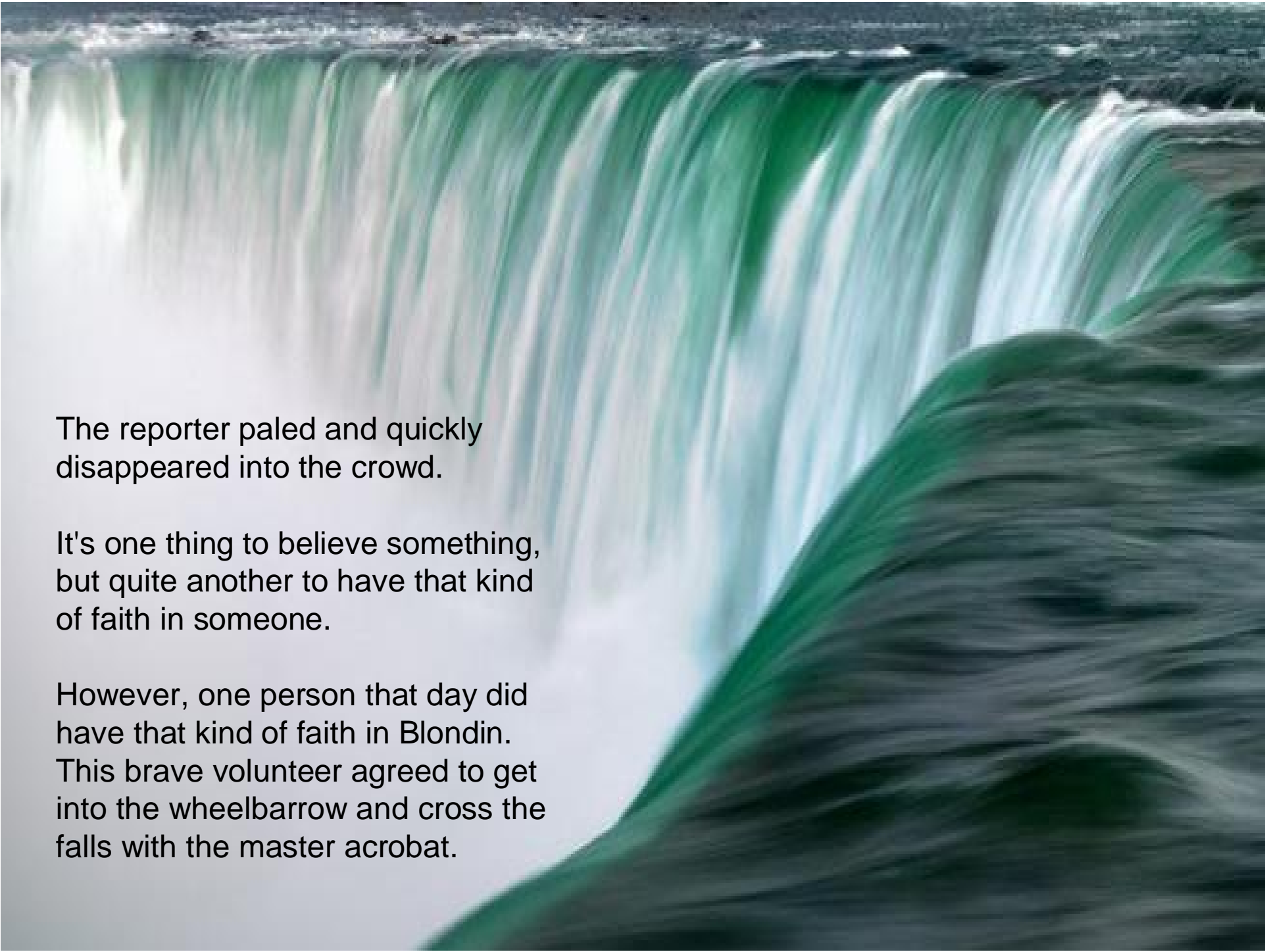
After his crossing, Blondin challenged a nearby reporter: “Do you believe I can do anything on a tightrope?”

“Oh yes, Mr. Blondin,” said the reporter, “after what I've seen today, I believe it. You can do anything.”

“Do you believe, then,” said Blondin, “that instead of a sack of cement, I could put a man in this wheelbarrow—a man who has never been on a tightrope before--and wheel him, without a net, safely over to the other side?”

“Oh yes sir, Mr. Blondin,” said the reporter, “I believe it.”

“Good,” said Blondin. “Get in.”



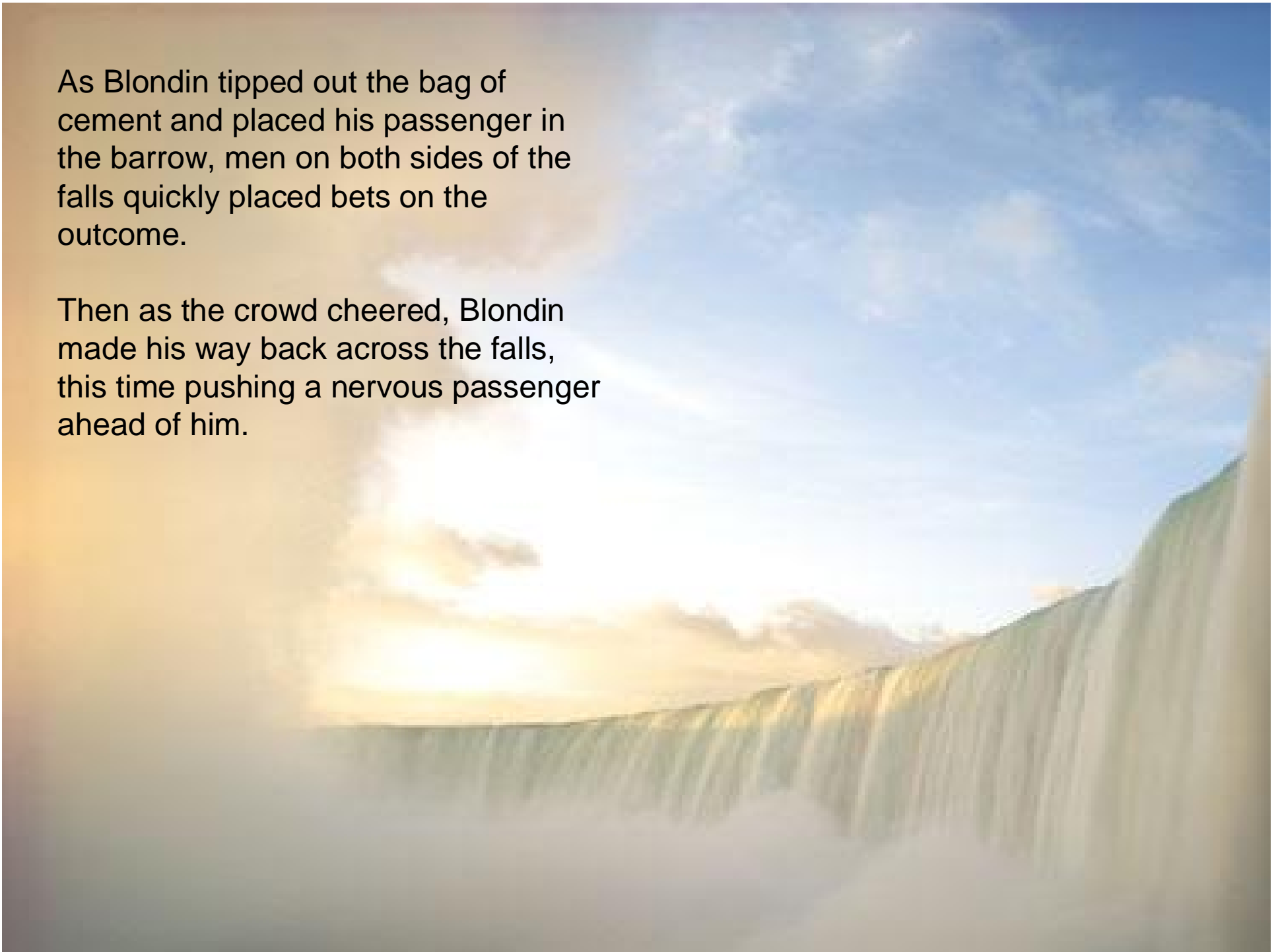
The reporter paled and quickly disappeared into the crowd.

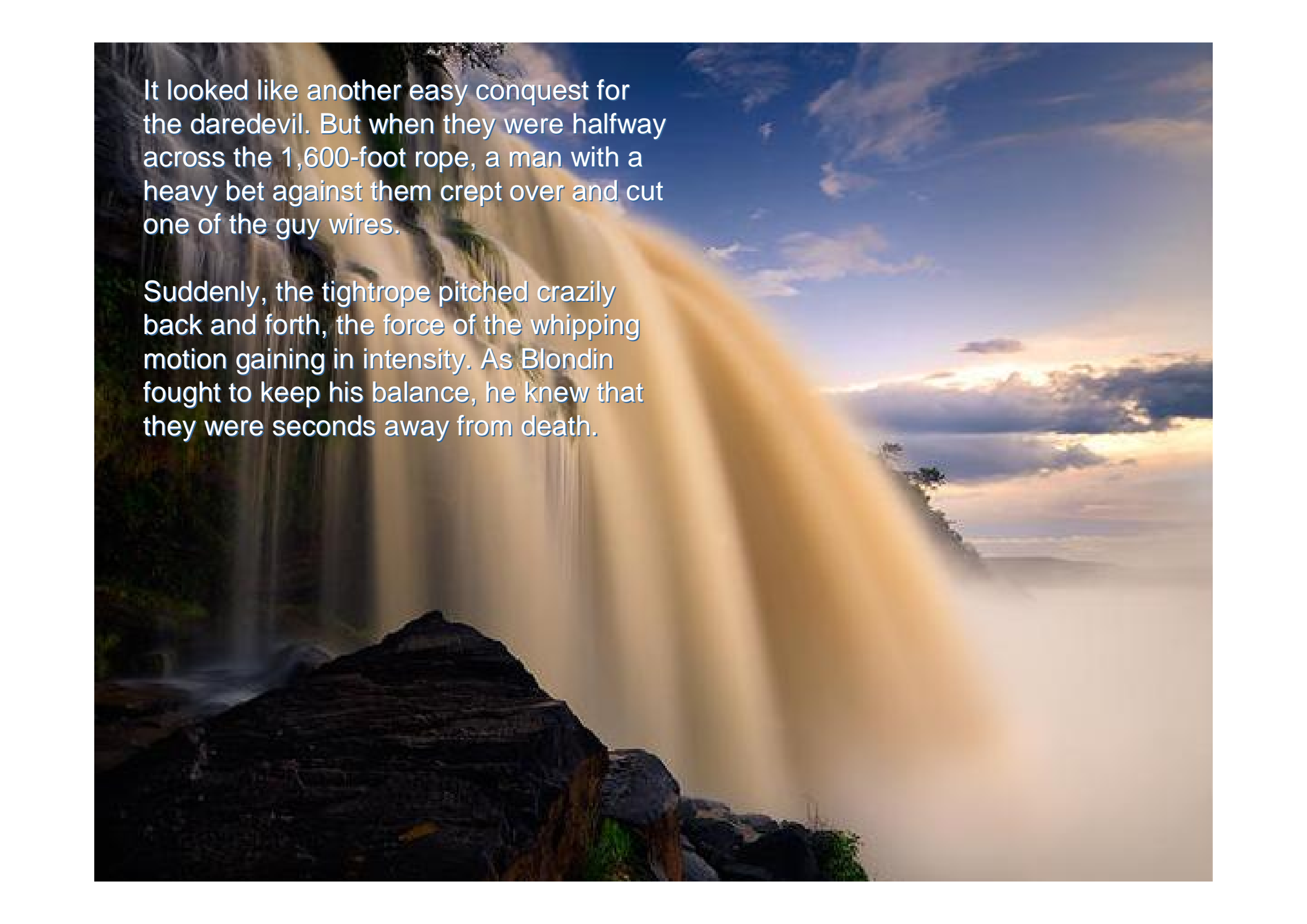
It's one thing to believe something, but quite another to have that kind of faith in someone.

However, one person that day did have that kind of faith in Blondin. This brave volunteer agreed to get into the wheelbarrow and cross the falls with the master acrobat.

As Blondin tipped out the bag of cement and placed his passenger in the barrow, men on both sides of the falls quickly placed bets on the outcome.

Then as the crowd cheered, Blondin made his way back across the falls, this time pushing a nervous passenger ahead of him.





It looked like another easy conquest for the daredevil. But when they were halfway across the 1,600-foot rope, a man with a heavy bet against them crept over and cut one of the guy wires.

Suddenly, the tightrope pitched crazily back and forth, the force of the whipping motion gaining in intensity. As Blondin fought to keep his balance, he knew that they were seconds away from death.



When the rim of the wheelbarrow came off the wire, they would both be pitched headlong into the churning waters.

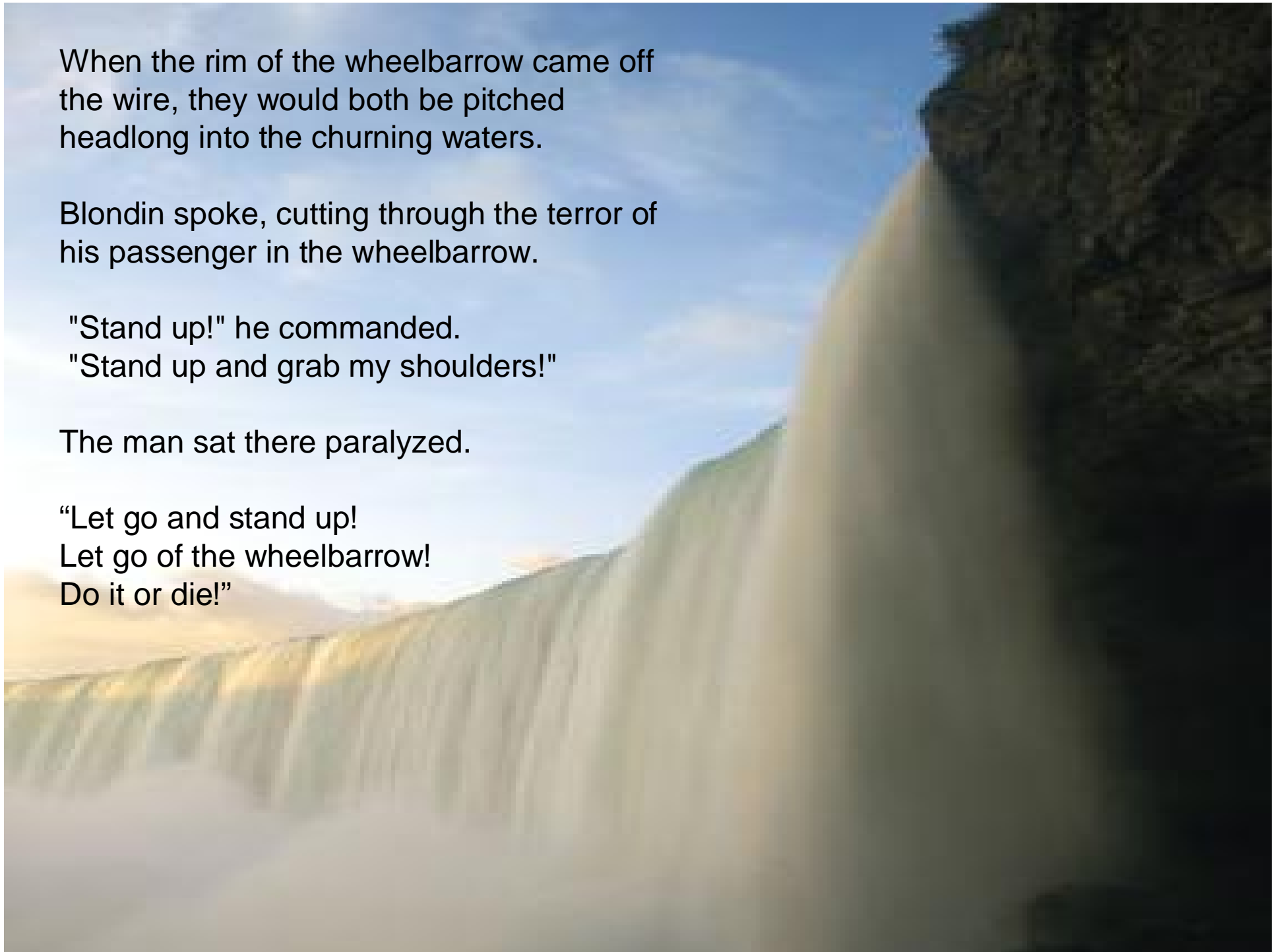
Blondin spoke, cutting through the terror of his passenger in the wheelbarrow.

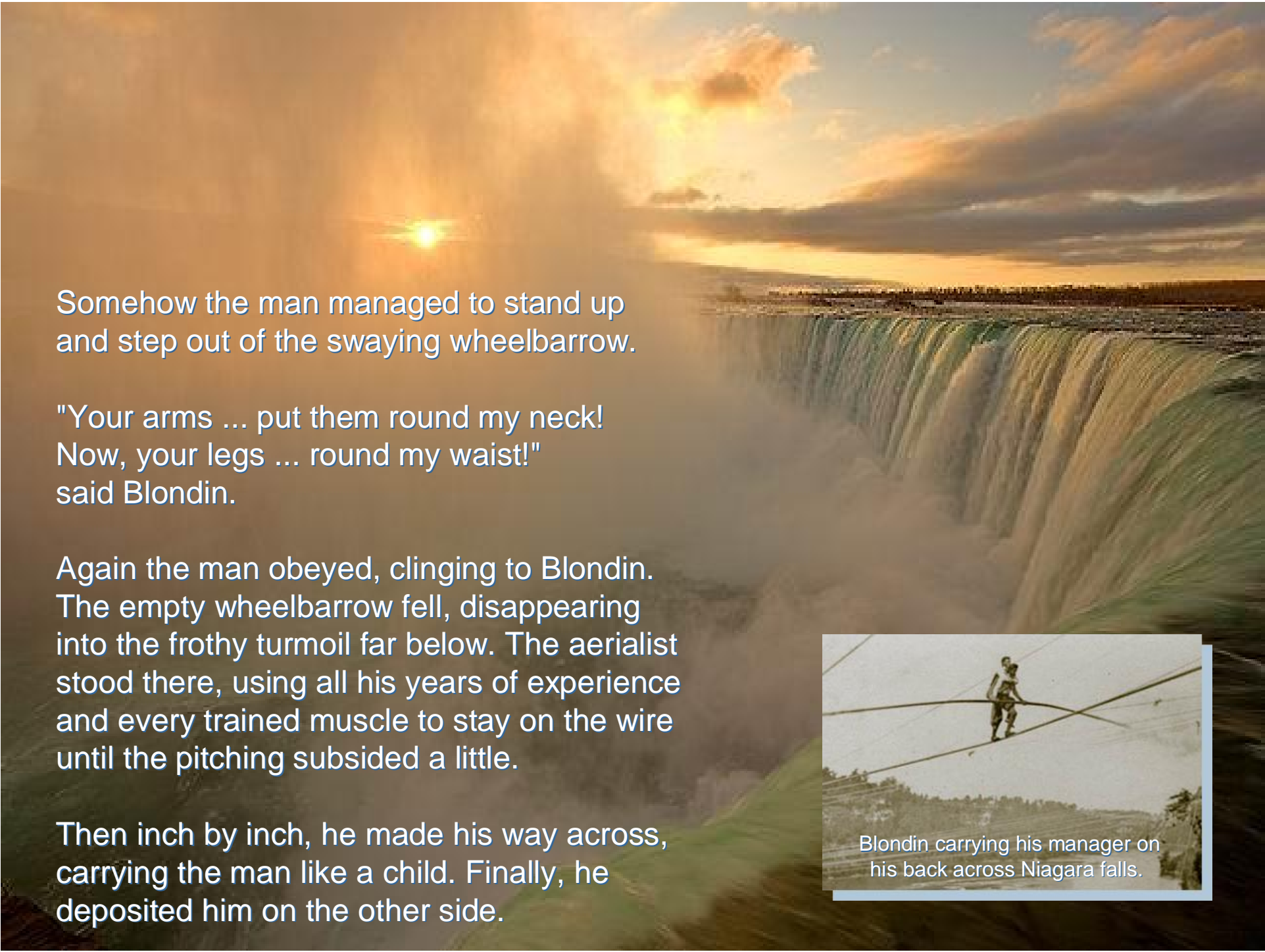
"Stand up!" he commanded.

"Stand up and grab my shoulders!"

The man sat there paralyzed.

"Let go and stand up!  
Let go of the wheelbarrow!  
Do it or die!"





Somehow the man managed to stand up  
and step out of the swaying wheelbarrow.

"Your arms ... put them round my neck!  
Now, your legs ... round my waist!"  
said Blondin.

Again the man obeyed, clinging to Blondin.  
The empty wheelbarrow fell, disappearing  
into the frothy turmoil far below. The aerialist  
stood there, using all his years of experience  
and every trained muscle to stay on the wire  
until the pitching subsided a little.

Then inch by inch, he made his way across,  
carrying the man like a child. Finally, he  
deposited him on the other side.



Blondin carrying his manager on  
his back across Niagara falls.

A person is walking across a narrow tightrope high above a large waterfall. The person is wearing a light-colored shirt and dark pants. The waterfall is a wide, powerful cascade of water, creating a misty spray at the bottom. The background shows a rocky cliff face and some greenery at the top.

# **That's what it means to live the life of faith.**

**You have to have real confidence in the One who is carrying you across.**

**It is fairly easy to say you believe in God.**

**But are you willing to have Him carry you across  
a tightrope, high above a roar of water?**

**You can have that experience, you know.**

**You can have the thrill of trusting God  
and seeing Him meet your needs.**



**This is what it comes down to,  
in living by faith.  
It is faith in God Himself.**

**There is no system or ritual to it.  
It is faith in a living person,  
faith that He will help you accomplish  
the job He has given you to do.**

**He has big challenges, planned just for you.**

He wants to see you be the best you can be for Him,  
and for your world around you.

**Take up the challenge.**

**Step out for Him.**

**Trust Him.**

**Dare to live on the edge!**

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