Life isn't always lovely. Dan was learning a lesson in that. He also realised that life was difficult. This had surprised him because he had led a privileged life. He despised the fact that this was the truth, and he struggled to be content knowing that his assumptions were incorrect. He would not realise until much later in life that the difficult obstacles he was facing at the time, which were robbing him of the beauty in his life, would ultimately make his life much more beautiful. All he knew was that life isn't always beautiful at this moment.