

## THE PRINCESS SIBYL

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ONCE upon a time there was a lonesome little fairy princess who longed for someone to play with her. She lived in the Kingdom of Make-Believe and she was all alone with her father, King Love, and her mother, Queen Beauty. Of course, there were lots and lots of people in the castle where she lived, and she had a great many ladies-in-waiting to serve her. Just the same she was alone, because she was the only child in the kingdom. All the rest were grown-up people, and children cannot play *very* well with grown-up people, can they? Of course, if they are just big children, that's different.

Well, she became more and more unhappy over being lonesome, and finally she went to her father, King Love, and cried to him, "Oh, your Majesty, my Father, I don't want to be a fairy princess any more! I'm so lonesome and unhappy here in this big, big castle without somebody to play with!"

Queen Beauty, who was seated by the side of the King, on the golden throne, took the little princess in her arms and tried to soothe her. King Love thought a while, then said:

"You know, Sibyl dear, it is a rule here that no one can stay who is not satisfied and happy, and I cannot change the law even for my own princess-child. So try to be contented or else I shall have to banish you to the Earth-world, to live as one of the Earth-children."

He spoke sadly, for it made him unhappy to think that his only little princess was discontented in his beautiful kingdom. He knew it was best for the time being for her to stay there, where she was sheltered from everything harmful. But still, she would gain much experience if she went away from home.

The princess begged eagerly, "Oh, send me, send me. I beseech you! Let me be a little Earth-girl, and have brothers and sisters and play with the other Earth-children. Do, *please*, your Majesty."

"My loved one," sadly answered the King, "you do not know that you will have many heartaches and troubles if you go to live on the 'Sorrowful Star'!" (Sometimes in Make-Believe Land people call the Earth that.)

"But can't Love and Beauty go with me?" asked Sibyl. "Surely you two would make up for all unhappiness."

"No, dear heart, we must stay here to govern this kingdom," said Love.

"But we *can* send a spark from our fairy wands to lighten up the dark places of her heart, if she really wants to go," exclaimed Queen Beauty to the King.

So they sent Princess Sibyl forth on her search for happiness. Everyone told her she would forget all about her fairy friends when she become an Earth-child. That troubled her because she loved all of them. She did not want to forget all about her home and her friends. So she went to her mother, the Queen, who said to her: "Listen for us in the song of the little brooks running along by the trees. Look

for us in the flower faces in the woods. Look for us, *feel* us in the soft green moss blankets.”

So Sibyl became a little Earth-child, like the rest of us.

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After a few years had passed and she was old enough to run around and play and wonder about



things, suddenly one day while picking daisies she found a little teeny-weeny creature, all sunshine and dew and loveliness, dancing on the yellow center of the biggest daisy Sibyl had ever seen. Dancing and singing and waving a fairy wand around, the tiny fairy sang to her in an exuberance of joy,

“God loves me, and I love you.

Oh, please tell me you love me, too.”

Then the fairy jumped off the daisy and crept into Sibyl's ear and whispered:

“Don't forget us, dear big girl,

Don't forget us, ever, *ever*;

Love and Beauty, fairies too,

We will leave *you* never, never.”

Then the spark from the magic wand that King Love and Queen Beauty had placed in Sibyl's heart flamed up for a moment, so that the Earth princess felt its presence there always after that, and it warmed and cheered her when she became lonely; for she *was* lonely sometimes, because on the beautiful Earth, too, little children get lonesome sometimes. Sibyl felt sad once in a while because the children she played with didn't believe in fairies; she knew they were so very real that it troubled her to think of all the joy and happiness the others were missing.

Well, every day Sibyl found a message from King Love and Queen Beauty — yes, every single day. One day she saw a little white cloud being slowly chased by a couple of pink ones in the blue sky; and she laughed softly to herself when she saw the clouds playing.

“Thank you, Queen Beauty, for showing me something beautiful today.”

Another day she was walking along, just a little bit restless and discontented — it was a gloomy, sticky day when everybody seemed to be too busy to play with her — when she happened to look up at a

girl who was passing by. She was about eighteen years old, and had a twinkle of happiness in her eyes. Maybe somebody had told her something nice. She smiled so sweetly at Sibyl that it made a queer tingly feeling go all over her. No one could feel blue when smiled at with *such* a smile, full of love and happiness and understanding.

So Sibyl smiled back as bravely as she could. She wondered if the big girl knew that she had been sent by the King to give Sibyl a message of love.

Love and Beauty come to us in many ways every day, if we only open our eyes and hearts and let them tell us what they wish to — that there is a God who loves us wonderfully, and that He gave us this beautiful world to be happy in, in growing good.

As Sibyl grew older, she looked more and more for chances to make other people realize that there is no one too ragged or dirty or ugly for us to help, for you can never tell by the outside of a person how bright his soul may be. Christ Jesus said that whatever we do to help *anybody* is the same as helping Him. Isn't it wonderful that we are allowed to serve Him who did so much for us? The best way to show our love for Him is to keep on helping everybody.

Sibyl kept on growing till she was grown up. Everybody she met blessed her for her sweetness and helpfulness, her wisdom and goodness. When at last it came time for her to leave the Earth, she went back to the Land of Make-Believe. What rejoicing and joy there was when the Princess Sibyl returned, for she had learned that real happiness comes only from serving other people!