

THE QUEEN OF GOOD THOUGHTS

KEYWORD: Thoughtfulness.

"If you have a pleasant thought, sing, sing it," floated out on the soft summer breeze as a happy group of children sang together. It was a glorious day; all Nature seemed blooming and happy and full of life. The children had finished their song and were seated in a circle under a beautiful tree whose spreading branches shaded them from the bright sun.

One of the group, named Dick, said: "Does anybody here know about thoughts? My grandfather, who is a very wise man and knows everything, taught me a little verse the other day."

"Oh! do tell it to us," shouted the children.

"Well, it was like this:

'I hold it true that thoughts are things,
Endowed with bodies, breath, and wings,
And that we send them forth to fill
The world with good results—or ill.'

"Is that all?" asked one child.

"H'm, sounds queer to me," said another.

"What does 'endowed' mean? 'Bodies, breath, and wings — and we send them forth,'" said another. "I'm sure I don't understand it at all. Sounds as though thoughts were birds or butterflies or something like that. Well, Dick, you tell us what it means."

"But I can't tell you, and that is why I asked you if you knew," said Dick.

"Why don't we find someone older who does know?" said one of the children.

"I know who could tell us, if I could only find him," said Dick.

"Who?" asked one of the group eagerly.

"No one you know," answered Dick. "He is a quaint little man, a friend of mine."

"Let's go and see him," said several of the children together.

"I don't know where he lives," said Dick, "but if we go for a walk through the garden, maybe we will meet Grandfather or Mother or some one who knows."

The merry children strolled through the garden. Suddenly Dick heard a funny little laugh, and right in the pansy bed was his friend Elf-kin.

"Hello, Dick, what's up today?" said Elf-kin. "Looking for lizards?"

"No," said Dick, "we want to know about thoughts."

"Well," said Elf-kin, "if you can wait until I get my helpers all started for home, I will take you to a wise Fairy who knows all about thoughts." So Elf-kin called to his assistant, Do-kin, and said: "Just whistle for the grasshoppers and then gather up your paints and you may quit for the day." After all the little flower painters were mounted on the grasshoppers' backs and had started homeward, Elf-kin was free.

Comfortably seated on Dick's shoulder Elf-kin guided the surprised children to another part of the grounds. There was a little dell there, quiet and peaceful. Elf-kin said: "Now you must be very quiet, for the sprites are very shy and do not like to have boisterous intruders coming into their dell. But if you are thoughtful of their feelings, it will be all right. Stay here quietly, please, until I come back." Then he was lost to sight.

Presently he came back with two most lovely elves. One of them was named Kind-Heart. He looked a little like

Elf-kin only he was taller, and he had on a smart-looking green suit and a red cap that went up to a sharp peak. The other one was an elf maiden. Secret Thoughts was her name. She was charming but very shy, not being used to being seen in public. They bowed gracefully and said: "Step right this way, please. The Queen of Good Thoughts will receive you."

It was a happy, smiling group of children that followed the elves. You can imagine the surprise and joy the children had when they beheld the Queen of Good Thoughts. She was the most beautiful creature you ever saw. Her hair was like pure golden sunshine, and her eyes were bright as the stars. The children bowed low before her, and then they were presented to her entire court. Her courtiers had such pretty names: Joy, Happiness, Kindness, Love, Goodwill, and last and dearest of all, Unselfishness.

After the presentation the Queen asked the children to sit down in front of her and her assembled court. This they were delighted to do. Then the Queen began to talk. Her voice was like music, so soft and rippling and full of love. First, she asked Dick to recite his little verse for her, which he gladly did. Then she said: "So you all want to know about thoughts."

"Yes," they politely replied. "Please tell us about thoughts."

"Thoughts are living things which we send out from our minds to other people," said the Queen. "When we send thoughts of joy and happiness and comfort and unselfishness to others and when we act in the same manner toward them, it is called *thoughtfulness*. We must watch our thoughts carefully so as to have only good ones. Sometimes naughty and selfish thoughts try to crowd into our heads and hearts, but we must never allow them to stay. We must just say, 'Be gone, naughty thoughts,' and then

shut the door of our mind very tight. Just to make you understand clearly what thoughtfulness is, we will give an example of it. Dick loves his mother dearly, and his heart is so full of love thoughts that he is very kind to her and tries to do the things that please her. That is thoughtfulness, and by thoughtfulness he makes his mother happy. You see, it is just like playing a nice game. When we try to be thoughtful of others, our happy thoughts grow so fast that we just have to share them with our friends. My courtiers, whom you have just met, through their thoughtfulness give me joy, happiness, kindness, and love, just like their pretty names. And you will see how beautiful they all are. Thoughts help to build our characters, and if we are beautiful in character, everyone will love us. And that is God's wish for us, dear children, that we should love everyone and that everyone should love us, for God is love, and His great love surrounds us all the time. We are all like beautiful flowers blooming in God's great Garden of Love, the world.

"There is one naughty little thought that is always trying to live in children's hearts, and that is selfishness," continued the Queen. "It does not belong there at all, and so I am going to tell you the great secret of how to keep it out. If you always want to share your joys and happiness with others, it will make you so full of thoughtfulness for them that selfishness can never get into your hearts.

"Now, dear children, you must hurry home, for it is getting late," said the Queen. She waved her magic wand over them, and they found themselves back in the garden again. But they never forgot what she had told them about thoughtfulness.