

THE BELOVED ONE

KEYWORD: Benevolence.

A long time ago — yes, hundreds of years — in a far-away land high up on a mountain lived a man whom everyone loved. I will tell you some of the things he did.

Now it was strange that although he had a beautiful home and everything he wished for, he did not sit down and think about his own selfish pleasure and comforts — not at all. He traveled a great deal, and everywhere he went people loved him. Sometimes he would come unexpectedly to a strange city, but he never seemed a bit like a stranger, and he quickly made friends. People were always glad to have him about.

He had the brightest eyes you ever saw — filled with a strange light, a real love light. Did you know that sometimes the eyes are called windows — windows of the soul? Yes, they really are. Well, his soul was so pure and bright that the love light shone right out of his eyes. Because of this love light he could see around him the little creatures that we know live in the air and water and sunshine, although we can't see them; and he could talk with them, too. They knew he would not harm them, because he loved them, and so they loved him, too. They had a secret understanding with him, and many, many times did little errands of love and thoughtfulness for him.

As this Beloved One traveled from city to city, he kept his eyes wide open to see what was going on around him. If some one was in trouble, he was quick to help. His loving heart was so big and kind that it just took in every one, rich or poor, young or old, sick or well, sad or happy. There was love enough for all. He just felt that all the people in the world were one big family of brothers and sisters.

Sometimes he would sit for hours and think and think, oh! such beautiful thoughts. They were thoughts of cheer and helpfulness. He was so eager to share these thoughts with others that they flew far and wide like little birds of light, and lodged in the minds of other good men.

Christian Rose Cross — that was the name of the Beloved One — soon gathered around him a band of men who also were kind and loving. Their one wish was to help their brothers and sisters in the great school of life. They wanted so much to help them learn the lesson of love and patience and humility. Soon their loving thoughts reached far away, and people began to speak of the kind deeds of this band of men. By and by they were called the Brothers of the Rose Cross, and their leader was Christian Rose Cross, our Elder Brother. During all the hundreds of years since

then these Brothers have been sending out joy and love and compassion to the whole world.

Shall I tell you about the Rose and the Cross? Well, the cross means your body. Some day when you are out in the bright sunshine hold your arms out straight and look at your shadow; it will be a perfect cross. Right in the center of this cross is your heart; and deep down in your heart is a wee bit of God, which is like a white rose. If we keep our hearts pure and white, some day something wonderful will happen to us, for Christ Jesus said: "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."

And do you know, all that the Brothers of the Rose Cross ask us to do is to be kind and loving toward everyone and to send out only beautiful thoughts. When we send out thoughts that are not beautiful, what do you think happens? Every midnight these kind Brothers gather up the evil thoughts in the world and through love change them into beautiful thoughts of kindness and compassion, which they send as sweet messengers of comfort and cheer to people everywhere.

Let us honor and reverence Christian Rose Cross and help him and our Elder Brothers of the Rose Cross by making a chain of loving thoughts that will grow and grow until it binds all our hearts together in love — a living chain of hearts as white and pure as a beautiful white rose.
