

THE CHRIST CHILD

KEYWORD: Self-sacrifice.

Once upon a time many, many years ago in a faraway country across the sea some shepherds were watching their sheep. It was a wonderful night, clear and bright and peaceful; still there was a feeling of expectancy in the stillness. Never had the stars seemed so bright, and one of them in particular shone so brightly that the shepherds were dazzled by its great light. And suddenly the stars sang! Yes, they really did, for you know there are star fairies and star angels, too. Oh! such heavenly music as rang out on the still night air.

The shepherds were so fascinated by the star that shone so much brighter than the others that they followed its light until it led them to a place a long way off. Then what do you think they found? Well, I shall have to tell you, for you could never, never guess. It was a dear little baby boy! The light around the baby was so bright that at first they did not see that there were Angels there, too. Yes, there were actually Angels in attendance on that beautiful baby. Five of them wore soft rainbow dresses and had transparent silvery wings. Each Angel brought a rare gift. The gifts were love and kindness and generosity and humility and patience. Were't these wonderful gifts? The sixth Angel, dressed in spotless white with a star on her forehead, brought a priceless treasure — unselfishness.

This baby boy, a little treasure himself, had been sent to earth by God to learn some new lessons in Life's School. God gave this little treasure to Joseph and Mary to love and guide. What happiness and joy he brought to his parents and to all who knew him! This baby was a most

wonderful one for he could talk with the Angels, and they understood every word he said. They taught him all about the beautiful gifts which they had given him.

When he was big enough to romp and play, his lovely mother taught him to think beautiful thoughts. His wise father showed him how to use the gifts that had been given to him. When he was old enough to have playmates, he was gentle and kind and generous with them, always wanting to share things with others. And do you know, he had invisible playmates, too. He played with the Nature Spirits, and they had the jolliest kind of fun together.

By and by he was old enough to go to school, and he was very clever and learned his lessons quickly. He was not proud about it but quite humble, and so unselfish that he gladly helped others who did not learn so easily. He was very patient with those he tried to help.

Early in life his mother had taught him that only the pure in heart could see God. So he kept his heart pure, for he did so want to see God some day. His father had taught him that thoughts were things which could be made to grow into a beautiful character, so he was careful to think only the right kind of thoughts. He was taught that the beautiful body which God had given him was really a living temple for God to dwell in, so he was very careful to keep it in good order.

After a time he went to stay with some wise and holy men called Essenes. They taught him about the earth and the stars and about the Nature Spirits and Angels and Archangels. There, too, he learned more about his wonderful body and how to prepare it to receive a heavenly Guest.

When he was quite grown up, his character had become noble and saintly, and his mind was full of good thoughts, so he began to give his beautiful thoughts to others. He made friends with everyone, and he was so filled with

humility that everyone loved him. He loved the animals, too, and was always kind and gentle to them, because he knew that they were his younger brothers.

After he had thoroughly mastered all the lessons which he had to learn in this earth life, a most wonderful thing happened. It is called a mystery, but it shall be revealed to you right now. It was necessary that some one be found who was pure and holy and who was willing to give his body for the use of God's own Son, Christ, who wished to come to earth to save the people from their sins. So Jesus — that was the name of this young man — offered his body to receive this heavenly Guest. This was a most wonderful act of *Self-sacrifice*, and Jesus gained great favor with God by it. This is the way it happened. Jesus was baptized in the river, Jordan, and when he was coming up out of the water, the great Christ Spirit descended from heaven and entered into him and filled him with spiritual power. Then a Voice from heaven said: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." After that great mystery was finished, Jesus was called Christ Jesus. He was the most holy man who ever lived on earth, and became the Savior of mankind.

If we are always good and kind and full of love and, most of all, unselfish, willing to sacrifice our little pleasures and even our most prized treasures to make others happy, and also, if we keep our minds and bodies pure and clean and holy, the beautiful Christ will come to live as a child in our hearts. Then when we become big men and women, we shall be like Him.