

The First

CHRISTMAS



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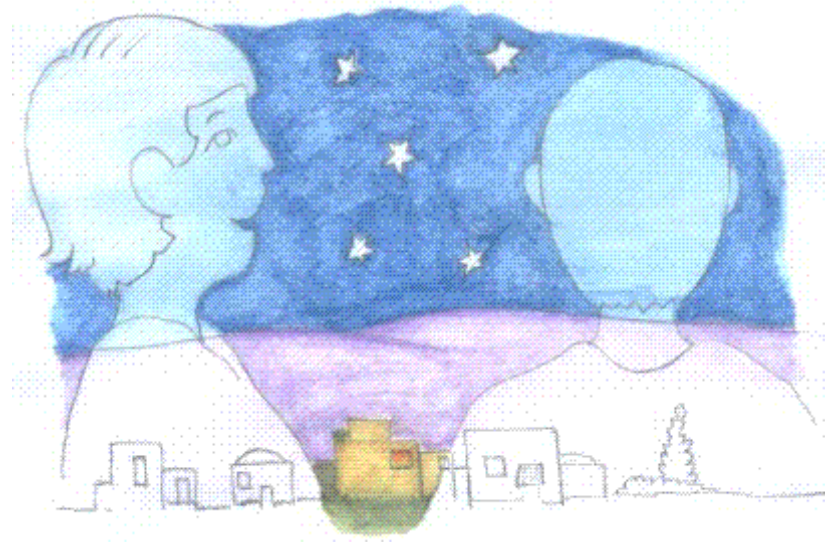


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Many many years ago, two invisible beings were passing over the city of Nazareth. No one saw and no one knew but there was a reason for their presence there.

After observing the silent houses where the families got together around the fire, one of them said:

“This is a different night.”

“Different? I don’t see any difference” – said the other one.

“It’s not something about the moon or the position of the stars or people’s activity. But something very important is about to happen...”

“Nothing important happens here. Unless the governor gives out special orders.”

“But I’m talking about something more important than the Emperor of Rome himself.”

“I don’t understand...”

“A baby is going to be born.”

“Well! That’s great! Thousands of babies are born in the world all the time. So what?!”



“I know everybody believes this is an ordinary night. But this baby has a message for the world. Today nobody is going to change their routine. There are no festivities, singing or commemoration. But posterity will always remember this night. People will hug each other and will exchange messages of peace and happiness. Cities will be filled of colorful lights. Families will celebrate. For many thousands of years the light of the boy will illuminate the world.”

“I know! He is going to be a great wise man. A philosopher, a professor or a lawyer. He is going to write books with great teachings.”

”No. He’s never going to write a single line himself. But he’s going to tell the story of his life day by day through signs of the deepest love of all.”

“Then he must be very rich to distribute lots of things...”

“No doubt he’s very rich in goodness and wisdom. But he’s going to be born into a poor family. I deeply believe that his future parents, at this moment, must be traveling looking for a place to stay the night.”



“But if he doesn’t have possessions nor servants then he’s not important! You are wasting my precious time. I have better things to do!”

“You don’t understand. He’s not going to bring people material things. Material things are not lasting: they get old, damaged and lost. His gift to humanity is eternal. It’s a spiritual present.”

“What kind of gift is this?”





“The way to true happiness, peace and health for everyone. Those who understand and practice his teachings and follow his examples will feel peace in their hearts and the joy of living.”

“Do you mean that sadness and suffering will end?!”

“No doubt about it!”

“And when will this be? When he grows up?”

“No. The world will not accept his present for now because it’s not ready yet.”

“But how can someone refuse a way to happiness?”

“In order for the world to turn into a better place men’s hearts have to change first. And men’s hearts are still very hardened by selfishness, indifference to other’s needs and the satisfaction of their own desires.”

“Look at that stable! — interrupted the other one. There’s a bright light over there.”

“A woman has just given birth. It must be him...”

“It’s him. It’s the boy I told you about! We came just in time to pay homage to him.”



“But how can we pay homage to him?”

(Think and talk to your friends. Try to answer this question too, not only with words but with actions. And have a Merry Christmas!)

The First Christmas is a short story written in the Christmas spirit of December 1997.

It brings back the night when Jesus was born through a dialog between two spirits who are watching and commenting the great event.

After all what is the origin of Christmas? What is the best way to remember and celebrate Christmas nowadays? We invite our readers to respond to these questions.

Rita Foelker

