

Adam and Eve

The Story of the Garden of Eden

Now the name of the first man was Adam, and the name of his wife was Eve. And the Garden of Eden, where Adam and Eve lived, was a wonderful place, warm and bright and sunny. Trees and flowers and plants of all sorts grew there. Adam and Eve and all the animals never had to worry about food to eat. All they had to do was to reach out and pick some fruit, of whatever sort they wanted—oranges or tomatoes, berries or nuts.

They could eat the fruit from all the trees in the Garden excepting one tree, for God had said to them, "In the middle of the Garden grows a tree with fruit on it which you must never touch. If you eat any of that fruit, you will be punished."

So they never went near that tree.

Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden very happily. They did just as God told them to do. They could talk with God just as if they were talking to a friend. They did not even know what badness and goodness were, for they were good all the time.

Now among the animals that lived in the Garden of Eden was the snake. One day the snake came to the woman, Eve, and asked her why she and Adam did not eat the fruit of the tree that grew in the middle of the garden.

"Because God told us not to," answered Eve

"Oh!" answered the mischievous snake. "Don't you know why God doesn't want you to eat the fruit of that tree? It's because He knows that if you do so, you will become just as wise and strong as He. Don't listen to Him. Go ahead. Eat some and you'll see that what I tell you is true."

So Eve disobeyed God. She took an apple from the tree and ate it. She gave some to Adam and he ate, too.

The minute Adam and Eve ate the fruit they began to feel very unhappy, for they knew that they had done wrong. They had never done anything wrong before, and they were so ashamed of what they had done that they were afraid to meet God. So they hid themselves behind some trees.

But God knew what they had done. He called to them:

"Why are you hiding? What have you done? Have you eaten the fruit of the tree which I told you you must never touch?"

And Adam answered, "I did. But I did it because Eve gave it to me."

Then God said to Eve, "What have you done?"

And Eve answered, "I did it because the snake said that it would not harm me. He told me to do it."

But God knew that were all to blame. For they had all disobeyed Him.

So God punished them all. To the snake He said, "As a punishment for what you have done, you shall always have to crawl on your belly in the dust of the ground; and people all step on you with their heels."

To Adam and Eve He gave a sad punishment. He sent them out of the beautiful Garden of Eden where they never had need to work, where they had always found their food all ready to eat.

"You may not live here any more," He said. "From now on you shall have to work hard for your food. You shall have to worry about enough rain and enough sun to make things grow. Yes, with the sweat of your brow, you shall have to earn your food, and you may never again live in the Garden of Eden."

So Adam and Eve were sent out of the Garden of Eden for disobeying God's commands. And no one has ever been able to find that wonderful place again.



