WORLD of WONDER

-A Magazine for Young People-



Published by
The THEOSOPHICAL ORDER of SERVICE
U.S.A.

NUMBER 2 Fall 1988 - Winter 1989 WORLD OF WONDER is a magazine for young people published by The Theosophical Order of Service. Its aim is to publish materials presenting the Theosophical World View in language young people can understand.

Front Cover:

The sad-eyed dragon on the front cover was drawn by Aleta Boudreaux. You will meet the dragon again in the story "The Dragon's Tears." This Japanese story is a final salute to the Chinese Year of the Dragon which started on February 18, 1988.

World of Wonder

January, 1989

Dear Young Friends:

The nice comments sent to us about the first issue of WORLD OF WONDER have made us happy. The only thing that would make us happier would be to hear more from you younger people. We would enjoy receiving your letters, art work, stories or thoughts. (See page 23, the THINK PAGE, for ideas.) How about sending a photo of yourself and describing your life to us? How about telling us your suggestions for making WOW better?

Did you notice that I referred to this magazine as <u>WOW</u>? WOW is an <u>acronym</u> for World of Wonder. An acronym is a word made of the first letter of each of the words of a title, so you see where WOW comes from. I think that's rather neat, don't you?

There have been delays in publishing this second issue of WOW, so we are making it an issue for both the Fall of 1988 and the Winter of 1989. Two more issues are scheduled for 1989 -- Number 3 in the Spring and Number 4 in the Fall.

HELP US MAKE YOUR MAGAZINE A SUCCESS!

Nadine Hunter (for TOS)

World of Wonder

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WORLD OF WONDER -- A MAGAZINE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS AND YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS TO:
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Story Time

The Dragon's Tears

Once upon a time there was a far-away strange country where a dragon lived. Where was the dragon's home? In a deep mountain cave from which his eyes shone like headlights.

Very often when some of the people living nearby were gathered in the evening by the fire, one would say, "What a dreadful dragon is living near us!" And another would agree, "Some one should get rid of him."



Whenever children were told about the dragon, they were frightened. But there was one little boy who was never frightened. All the neighbors said, "Isn't he a funny little boy!"

When it was almost time for this funny little boy's birthday, his mama asked him, "Whom would you like to invite for your birthday party?" Then that little boy said, "Mama, I would like to ask the dragon!"

Mama was very much surprised and asked, "Are you joking?"

"No," said the little boy very seriously. "It is true."



And so, on the day before his birthday the little boy stole quietly out of his house. He walked and he walked and he walked till he reached the mountain where the dragon lived.

"Hello! Hello! Mountain Dragon!" The little boy called down the valley in his loudest voice.

"What's the matter? Who is calling me?" rumbled the dragon.

The dragon came out of his cave. Then the little boy said, "Tomorrow is my birthday and there will be lots of good things to eat, so please come to my party. I came all the way to invite you." But the dragon was puzzled by the little boy's invitation.

"Come on, let's go," said the little boy.

When the dragon understood, his tears began to fall.

"What a happy thing is happening to me! I never had a kind invitation from anyone before."

The dragon's tears flowed until at last they became a river, and the dragon said, "Now climb on my back and I will give you a ride home!"

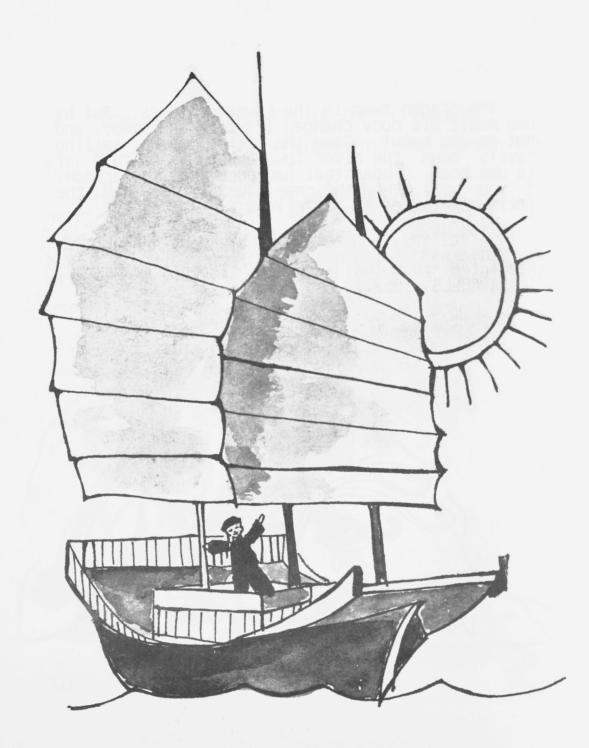


The dragon swam in the river of tears. But by some magic his body changed its size and shape, and what do you know! Soon the little boy was sailing bravely down the river toward home as captain of his own boat, a boat that had once been the dragon. If you will turn the page, you'll see how the little boy looked as he arrived for his party!

-- Hirosuke Hamada

(Reprinted from the Japanese children's magazine, SILVER BELLS, 1952.)







Crazy Answers, Correct Answers

Directions: For each sentence below, cross out the incorrect, crazy answer and fill in the blank with the correct answer from the box at the bottom of the page. Use each word or phrase in the box at the bottom only once.

1.	A pet gets hungry, so it needs to be fed good books.	1
2.	A dog can get sick, so it needs to see a hairdresser at least once each year.	
3.	Cats need to be brushed at least two times every minute .	
4.	It is important to put your dog on a peanut butter jar when the two of you go for a walk.	
Б.	Cats lead safe, healthy, happy lives if they stay in a yogurt container and do not go outside.	
6.	A pet can get bored, so it needs lots of flowers from its owner.	E310MAD Y80H1818
7.	All pets need a bowl of fresh eggplant every day.	
8.	Pet dogs and cats should be spayed or neutered to keep them from having envelopes that nobody wants.	
9.	Often, people put a baseball mitt on a small dog to keep it from getting cold.	. 40
10.	Shoelaces can be their dog's or cat's best friend if they take care of their animal's needs.	

pet owners

babies

water

attention

indoors

leash

week

veterinarian

food

dog sweater



WASH YOUR HANDS.

1/2 GALLON ICE CREAM (NEAPOLITAN IS GREAT!)

CANDY CAKE DECORATIONS

BIRTHDAY CANDLES

BAKING DISH, SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN ICE CREAM PACKAGE

FOLLOW DIRECTIONS FOR PREPARING THE CANDY DECORATIONS. HAVE DISH READY AND A KNIFE. PREPARE A PLACE IN THE FREEZER LARGE ENOUGH TO SET THE DISH FLAT. TAKE ICE CREAM FROM OUT OF THE FREEZER AND QUICKLY PEEL AND CUT THE WRAPPING OFF WITHOUT MAKING FINGER HOLES. PLACE DISH ON TOP OF THE ICE CREAM AND TURN OVER. REMOVE THE LAST OF THE WRAPPING. PLACE DECORATIONS INTO ICE CREAM ON FIVE SIDES. QUICKLY PUT INTO THE FREEZER. JUST BEFORE

SERVING, PUSH CANDLES INTO ICE CREAM AND LIGHT THEM. CUT INTO SMALL WEDGES AND SERVE. BE GENEROUS WITH SECOND HELPINGS. HAVE FUN!

We tried this for my little brother who has diabetes. His meal plan allowed a small treat like ice cream but not cake too. It was so much fun we tried it for Amber's 4th birthday party and she loved the chance to decorate her own dessert! Her friends loved the special treat too.

Now that I'm eleven, I prepare meals a lot, at least once a day, at our vegetarian commune. (We don't have enough kids here though!) I get telephone privileges when my chores are done. I hope you'll let me know how YOUR party went!

HOLLY TURNER (Write to Holly at Dawn Colony, Rt. 1, Box 1024, Sarcoxie, MO 64862. Call her at 417-548-3679.)



Here is a photo of Holly with her brothers and sister, Jay, Foster and Amber.

CYCLES in NATURE



It's a Duck's Life

Is there a lake or pond near your home where you can go to feed ducks? Next time you go look for a handsome duck with a glossy green head, a white collar, and curly black tail feathers. This is the male mallard. Nearby you will see a plain duck with feathers of light and dark brown and with a blue patch framed in white on each wing. This is the female mallard. Mallards are the most common wild ducks, and they live all over North America. There is a good chance there will be some in your pond.

Watch how they swim silently without making ripples in the water. The only movement of water you can see is a V-shaped streak going out behind them. You will probably see them tip up their curly rear ends and put their heads under the water, paddling their feet to hold them there. They may make you laugh, but they are doing something very important. They are diving to scoop up mud and plants from under the water. They have rows of comb-like teeth on their bills and on their tongues. These teeth strain out plants and insects and little water animals from the mud. There is also a hook at the end of their bills with which they can feel and taste. This makes it possible for them to feed at night when they cannot see.

If you throw bread or cereal to the ducks, they will probably swim near to you. Notice how.

they look at the food. They have to turn their heads to the side so that one of their eyes is aimed at the food. They can't focus both their eyes to the front on one thing, as you are doing now as you read. Each of the duck's eyes sees something different. You would see like that if your eyes were where your ears are, each one facing a different direction. The ducks can't see as clearly as you do, but they can see almost all the way around. They are not blind in the back as you are. Can you think of a reason why this is a help to ducks?

Watch for a duck to come out of the water. He will probably start preening himself. He twists his neck so that his bill touches his tail, then he strokes his feathers with the bill. He gets into some unusual and sometimes beautiful positions doing this. He is really waterproofing himself. The outside feathers serve as a raincoat. There is an oil gland on his back where his tail begins. When he preens he is covering his feathers with oil which he has gotten on his bill from this gland. See if you can find one of the outer feathers which a duck has shed. Put it in water and see what it is like when you take it out.

Ducks also have little white downy feathers near their bodies which act as a blanket to keep them warm. Ducks can feed only in water, so they must swim every day, no matter how cold it is. Nature has given them a warm, waterproof coat.

If you see a duck flying off from the water, you will see that he springs to the air pushing on

the water with his wings. Ducks are such good swimmers that we sometimes forget that they are also strong flyers, which is very important during their migration. They are far more at home in water and in the air than they are waddling around the land.

Most mallards migrate south in the fall. If you see them in September or October, notice how fat they are. They have eaten a lot and fattened up for the long flight during which they may not eat as much as usual. By the time they reach their winter homes, the fat is all used up.

Ducks go to the same place every winter. They somehow know just where to go. Even if they are blown off their course by a storm, they find their way to the winter grounds. They fly together in flocks and will go up to sixty miles per hour. They may travel fifty miles one day and two hundred the next, but they average about a hundred miles a day.

The way birds can find their direction over hundreds or thousands of miles is one of nature's wonders. In some kinds of birds, the young which were born during the summer are left behind, and the parents leave first. The young birds have never migrated before and have not had a chance to learn the way. Yet they are able to fly all the way to the winter home where the parents are. Some kinds of birds fly over the water for hundreds of miles with no landmarks below. How do these little creatures find their way to just the right place?

Scientists have found that they fly a straight course if the sky is clear. But on foggy or cloudy days and nights, birds get confused and are not able to keep the direction of their flight. Experiments have shown that the position of the sun in the sky guides birds which fly in the day. This is amazing since the sun is constantly moving in the sky. But the mallards fly by day and by night. How do they get their direction at night?

In an experiment birds were put in a planetarium with lights that looked like the pattern of stars in the sky. The pattern was made to look like the sky over the path the birds would fly, and the birds flew in the right direction to their homes. The pattern of lights was then changed to look like the sky hundreds of miles east of where the birds fly. The birds headed west as though to get back to their course. These little creatures with their tiny "bird brains" can somehow read directions from the stars.

How do migrating birds know what time it is? Experiments have shown that they get their direction from the pattern of stars in the sky, not just from the North Star. You can see why their ability to see in all directions is important in night flying. But the pattern of stars appears to move to the west throughout the night. Yet the birds somehow take this into account and keep on course. They seem to have some sort of an inner clock that tells them the hour of day, perhaps even more precisely than the biological clock of the firefly.

It is interesting to watch migrating birds the spring and fall. You might see a flock of geese flying in a V-formation, each bird keeping his place in line as he flies. Some birds fly in a crescent or half-circle formation. It is thrilling sight to see a whole flock flying in rhythm with their wings beating up and down together. Some people feel the blue spots framed in white on the mallards' wings help them fly in rhythm. However, much of the mallards' flying is done at night. Migration is very heavy on the night of the full moon. If you ever have a chance, watch for migrating birds when the moon is full in September or October. You might be lucky enough to see hundreds of wings beating across the face the moon.

The mallard spends the winter in the southern home where his family has gone for many generations. In the spring he fattens up again, and once more he gets restless and feels the urge to migrate. After another long flight to his northern home, his mate builds a nest in tall grasses near the water. She plucks out soft little feathers near her skin and lines the nest with these. After the eggs are laid she will leave the nest only to feed.

Of all the mallards born, only about half survive and grow up. Many animals such as foxes like to eat baby ducks. Also the mallard is a favorite of hunters who kill many each year. It is in nature's plan for some kinds of larger animals to feed on smaller ones. Even the mallard sometimes eats insects and shellfish along with

seeds and grass. But man is the only creature who kills animals for sport and excitement. Hunters have alsmost completely killed off many kinds of animals. There are laws now to control the number of animals of different kinds which may be killed in hunting. Do you think that hunting for sport fits into nature's plan? Or have hunters lost the sense of wonder of the life in any creature?

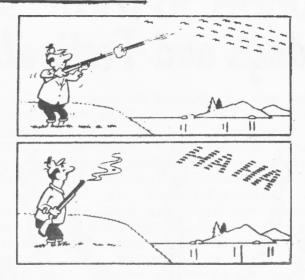
Stars moving across the night sky guide birds over thousands of miles to their winter homes. The regular, orderly patterns of movement of planets and stars in space have striking effects on life on earth. You can see how much of life is controlled by nature's cycles and how closely different cycles work together. Do you feel the guiding intelligence of the One Life in the background producing a great orderly pattern through cycles, vast and small?

-- Shirley J. Nicholson

* * * * *

This story about the life of mallard ducks has been taken from Chapter 7 of the book, NATURE'S MERRY-GO-ROUND, by Shirley Nicholson. You can order the book for yourself from the Theosophical publishing House, PO Box 270, Wheaton, IL 60189-0270; the cost is \$3.75 for the book, plus \$1.50 postage charges.

THINK Page



This time our THINK PAGE asks us to think about hunting. Do you think that hunting defenseless birds and other creatures is a real "sport"? Are those humans who kill other forms of animal life working with the laws and cycles of nature?

Many thousands of people all over the world now enjoy the sport called "birding" -- or perhaps you have heard it called bird-watching. We think it is fun to get to know the birds who live near us. It is great fun to learn their names, their habits, their calls, and to watch them rear their families.

Let us know what YOU think about hunting. We will print what you think on the next THINK PAGE.

Holidays and Festivals



The Story of Hanukkah

(as told by a Jewish grandmother)

Of all the Jewish holidays, the most important ones, Rosh Hashanah -- the Jewish New Year -- and Yom Kippur -- The Day of Atonement -- fall in September. Another, a little less important holiday, Pesach or Passover, comes around Easter. It celebrates our Exodus from Egyptian slavery, which happened at the beginning of the Old Testament -- so long ago that the Jews helped the Egyptians build some pyramids. Some people think that in New Testament times a clebration of Pesach was Jesus's Last Supper with his disciples. A dinner is part of the celebration and it falls at the right time of the year.

We can never tell to the day when a Jewish holiday is going to occur, because the Jewish calendar is calculated according to the cycles of the moon, whereas our usual everyday calendar is calculated according to the cycles of the sun.

Hanukkah, a festival lasting eight days, is not one of the more important Jewish holidays. It has become more important in modern times because it arrives in December -- in 1988 it was on December 3rd -- just before Christmas, that very important Christian holdiday. Christian people light their bright and colorful Christmas trees and put lots of presents under them for kids and grown-

ups alike. There are fun parties and much visiting back and forth between relatives and neighbors. A great spirit of friendship, warmth and glory pervades, as if Peace on Earth, Good Will towards Men weren't all that far away.

Well, Jewish grown-ups didn't want their kids left out. We were hearing, "Please, Daddy, why can't I have a pretty Christmas tree?" and "Why doesn't Santa come to my house? Wasn't I good, Mommie?" Not easy! So we Jewish grown-ups have enlarged our Hanukkah celebration a bit for our children and, I think, for ourselves as well.

So there are lights, singing, and festivities for Hanukkah as well! Hanukkah is known, in fact, as "The Festival of Lights." Lights and merriment are the custom of many people all over the world at the same time of the year, for this is when we clebrate the winter turning point -- the Winter Solstice -- when the Earth's face and the Sun's face begin to turn more towards each other once again, to eventually produce the light of Spring and Summer.

People of the Jewish faith light the nine candles of their Menorahs during the Hanukkah celebrations. (Nowadays, you can buy very nice Menorahs at Judaica shops.) My own Menorah says "Shalom" in both English and Hebrew letters underneath the nine candleholders. Shalom means "Peace" or "Hello" or "Good-by". I think that a Menorah that says "Shalom" is fitting for a Jewish-Theosophist like me, for both beliefs try to attain inner and outer peace. Come to think of it, all

mankind really strives for Peace on Earth.

In earlier times, women were not supposed to light Menorahs, but nowadays we have women rabbis who have studied the most learned Jewish books. Since I am now the head of my family, I feel that I deserve to light a Menorah.

The Jewish festival of Hanukkah lasts for eight days. Since a Jewish festival always begins at sundown, the Menorahs are lit at that time on the first day of Hanukkah. First a blessing is said for the Menorah and for Hanukkah. Then the candle in the middle of the Menorah is lit; it is called the Shammash or servant candle. Next, we carefully pick up the Shammash and light the other candles with it -- one candle on the first night, two on the second night, and so on until, on the eighth night, all the candles of the Menorah lit. Each day we say a few sentences about a different virtue, and then we end by singing Ma-oz Zur, Rock of Ages -- but this may be a different hymn from the one you have learned in your church services. The symbol of a Rock of Ages appears in various religions.

When we have finished singing Ma-oz Zur, we place the Menorahs on our window sills -- with the curtains out of the way -- so that we, in our houses, and the people walking by on the street can look at the tiny little lights flickering and feel joyful.

How did the celebration of Hanukkah start? It all began with Judah Maccabee. He lived in a small

village, a little over one hundred years before Jesus lived in Palestine. At one time, an under the command of Judah Maccabee was able reconquer the city of Jerusalem, which had been lost earlier to a Greek-Syrian army. There Jews found that their most important Temple had been used by the Syrians to worship their Greek Gods in ways that were foreign to the Jewish The Maccabees -- Judah and his brothers -set about to change the Temple back from a Greek to Jewish one. In a Jewish place of worship Eternal Light always burns over the Holiest of Holies, the most sacred part of the altar. Nowadays, you would see an electric Eternal Light -- and the Maccabees would only have to find a good light bulb and ask to get the electricity turned back on! In those days, lamps were made of a wick dunked into a pretty container of oil; the oil used for lamps in Palestine during Biblical times was probably olive oil. The oil for the Eternal Light needed first to be made sacred for eight days, until it was considered to be sacred enough for The Maccabees found only a few drops of sacred oil in a jar way back in a forgotten corner of the Temple. But when they put those few drops into the Light, the wick kept on burning for the entire eight days needed to consecrate new oil. It was considered a great miracle; and this miracle of the oil is the reason we celebrate Hanukkah -- to remember the Maccabees and to remember the miracle of the sacred oil in the Eternal Light.

So what else do we do besides light the menorahs to celebrate Hanukkah? We get presents, we play games, we sing songs. In olden times, the



A DREIDEL TOP

(Do you want to learn how to play Dreidel? Turn the page!)

present people gave one another was Hanukkah Geld, money. Nowadays, the Hanukkah Geld often includes a bag of chocolate coins covered with gold foil. Whether it is real money or made of chocolate, we use some of the Geld to play "Dreidel" with. And here's how you play Dreidel!

The best way is for everybody to sit on the floor; if the grown-ups are too creaky, Dreidel can also be played on a table, but then the top spins off sometimes and has to be retrieved. A Dreidel is part top and part die; it has four sides, a handle on top to spin it with, a point on the bottom to spin it on. You can make one yourself if you do not find one to buy. Make a cube of construction paper, and put a pencil through it from top to bottom for a handle and a spin point. Dice have dots, but a Dreidel has Hebrew letters. Each person who spins follows the direction of the letter that falls up when the Dreidel stops spinning.

J - n - Nun, means do nothing.

1 - h - Hay, means half the money in the pot is now yours.

- g - Gimmel, means you get the whole pot.

Shin, means you have to put half your money into the pot.

Whoever has lost all their money is out. Whoever ends up with all the money in the game wins. But it is great fun.

During Hanukkah, other presents than money are given. There is one present for each person on each of the eight days of Hanukkah -- eight presents, large or small. It is like having Christmas for eight days! And, just as there are very special traditional foods for the Christmas celebration, there are also very special foods prepared for Hanukkah and enjoyed by Jewish families only at that season. Perhaps we can tell you about some of these special foods another time.



(NOTE: Several weeks ago, I received as a gift from Lee Deutsch, the Jewish grandmother, a beautiful little Dreidel made of a very light wood. It is something I will always treasure. Being sort of "creaky," I decided to spin it the first time on a table. Sure enough, it spun off to the floor just as we were warned! When I looked to see what symbol was facing up, it was the one for "Shin" -- you can look that up to see what it means. -- N.H.)

The Feast of Lanterns

The Chinese New Year celebration is also known as the Feast of Lanterns. This is a New Year that is not celebrated on the first of January each year. Although China uses the same modern calendar in their everyday and business life that we do, still they like to celebrate their New Year by the old Chinese calendar based on the cycles of the moon. That calendar is thousands of years old and its cycles of days and months do not "run" the same as our modern calendar, which is based on cycles of the sun. This year of 1989, Chinese people everywhere will be celebrating their New Year's feast day on February 6, and 1989 will be known as the Year of the Snake by their ancient calendar. Here is a story about how one little boy celebrated the Feast of Lanterns once upon a time. Although the story came from a fiftyyear-old book, there must be places where Chinese people observe the day in much the same way now.

New Year's Day is a great day for little Chan. Chan jumps up and runs to see if the Mochi Man has brought him anything. The Mochi Man comes to Chinese children at the New Year just as Santa



Claus comes to visit you at Christmas.

What Chan will find is some candy called mochi. Chan hunts for this candy just as you look for bright eggs at Easter or for your candy in the foot of the stocking you hung on Christmas Eve.

Before Chan can even get dressed, a messenger arrives with gifts. These gifts are from his grandmother.

After breakfast Chan helps his father and mother string lanterns from tree to tree. The many-colored lanterns are shaped like men, animals and ships. Some are old, old lanterns, saved from year to year, and some are new ones.

Every tree, bush and bridge is hung with flowers and lanterns. Lanterns are strung in rows across the streets and on the houses. Wherever you look you see many lanterns, lanterns everywhere.

All day Chan plays games and has fun. Chan and the other children have little balloons tied to their wrists. The balloons are held by strings and a bell is fastened to each balloon. As the balloons move all the bells tinkle.

Chan has many sweet cakes to eat on New Year's Day. You would think his mother had baked mountains of cakes if you tried to count them.

In the evening all the lanterns hanging in front of the houses and in the streets are lighted. People carry lighted lanterns about the streets.

Then comes the parade of lanterns. Chan climbs up on a post so he can see it all. No two lanterns are alike. Some of the lanterns are like flowers. Some are shaped like birds, fish and many animals. There are lanterns that look like ducks, squirrels and roosters. Some roll along the ground and still keep lighted. Some run like a horse. Some spin like a top. There are ships that sail and soldiers that march.

Near the end of the parade comes the great dragon lantern. A hundred men carry it. The boys in the street let loose hundreds of lighted balloons as the dragon goes by. Last of all comes a band of little girls singing a good night song.

The Feast of Lanterns is over for another vear.



Fairy Tale Wisdom

Princess Starshine

This time, I am going to retell an old story — well, several old stories that are somewhat the same and are versions of the ancient Cinderella story, and I have made them into a new story for you. In the different versions of this story, the Cinderella-girl is sometimes called Donkeyskin, sometimes Catskin or Roughskin, and sometimes Thousand-Furs. I wanted her to have a new and beautiful name, so I have called her "Starshine."

Now here is my version of these old stories all rolled into one.

Little Princess Starshine was born into the happy home of a King and Queen who ruled a happy kingdom. But, alas, after a few years the beautiful Queen died, leaving her husband without a wife and her little daughter without a mother. Their grief was great and lasted several years. The Princess Starshine, however, grew out of her unhappiness as she grew up, while her father, the King, became only more bitter and unhappy.

At last, the King decided that he wanted to just wander about the world until he died. But, first, he thought, he must find a husband for Princess Starshine so that she and her husband

could rule his country well. To make his job easy, he selected a prince of a nearby kingdom whom he had never met. He just sent a messenger to ask the prince to come to his kingdom and marry the beautiful Starshine. The prince could not believe his good fortune and at once travelled to the kingdom of Starshine and her father.

Little Starshine stood beside the King to greet the prince from the neighboring country. She knew at once she could not marry him! It was not just that he was unwashed and his hair was not combed, but also he did not stand straight and proud like one of royal blood should. Not only that, she knew he had a cruel streak in him, for she saw him kick her favorite puppy out of his way as he came forward to meet them. When he spoke, his voice too was rough and loud. How could she marry such a man?

Her father, however, was delighted that he was able to take care of the matter of a husband for Starshine with so little trouble. When the father and daughter were alone, the Princess pleaded and cried but her father would not listen.

That night Little Starshine cried herself to sleep. In the night, she had a dream in which her fairy godmother appeared and told her what to do.

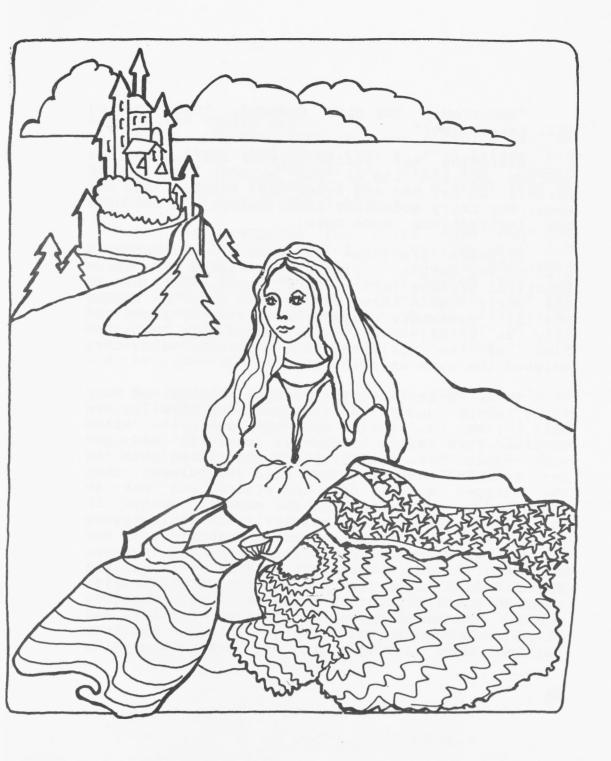
When morning came, Starshine went to the King and followed the instructions of her fairy godmother. "Father," she said, "I will marry the prince if you will provide me with three dresses, one to be woven of the golden light of the sun,

another to be made of silvery moonlight, and the third sparkling with the many stars of the night."

"These are impossible dresses to ask for, and cannot be made," Starshine thought, but she did not understand how powerful her father was. He called together the most skilled weavers in his kingdom, and somehow they were able to capture the gold of the sun, the silver of moonglow, and the sparkle of hundreds of stars. These were woven into three dresses, the most beautiful the kingdom had ever seen, and so gossamer and airy as to weigh almost nothing.

Beautiful as the dresses were, Princess Starshine could not stand to look at them. Again, she wept herself to sleep, and again her fairy godmother came to her in a dream. When morning came, Starshine went to face her father again. "I will marry the prince," she said, "if you will fulfill one more wish. I would like to have a cloak made of skins, but there must be a bit of skin from every animal in your kingdom." The King was not pleased by this request. "I will see that you get your cloak," he told his daughter, "but I will give you nothing else. The day after the cloak is finished, you will marry the prince."

What he said did not worry the Princess, for she thought the cloak made of many, many skins would be an impossible thing. But her father sent out a thousand hunters and they found that every animal in the kingdom was willing to give a bit of its skin to make a cloak for Starshine. And, in less than one week, there was the finished cloak!



"Tomorrow," the King ordered, "the wedding will take place!"

Starshine was beside herself and ran to her bedroom at the top of the palace. She threw herself on her bed and cried and cried. All at once, her fairy godmother stood before her and gave her instructions once more.

Princess Starshine followed her godmother's plan to the letter. First, she packed her three beautiful dresses into a walnut shell. But, HOW in the world could three dresses fit into a walnut shell?! Remember, those dresses were as light and airy as thistledown -- they shone with all the light of the world and the heavens, but they weighed the same as nothing.

Then, Starshine put on the long coat of many furry skins and pulled its hood over her golden hair. (You can quess now why she was called Thousand-Furs in one of the old stories!) She got some ashes from the fireplace and rubbed them on her face and hands to serve as a disguise. Then she slipped quietly down the stairs and out an unused door at the back of the castle. By now it was guite dark and the little Princess did not know what direction to take or where she should go. trusted in her godmother's instructions, however, and felt her way through the dark as well as could. All night she realized she was travelling through a thick forest, and when it was morning, she lay down on some moss at the foot of a tree and slept until the sun was setting. Then she ate some berries from a bush nearby and set out again,

walking the entire night.

Early the next morning, she stumbled out of the great forest and found that a large palace was just before her. She was very tired and hungry and went timidly to ask for help at a great gate at the back that led to the kitchens.

To her surprise the chief cook and the servants working all around were very helpful and kind, and despite her furry look and all the ashes on her, she was given the job of caring for the turkey flock of the palace. In exchange, she was to receive food and a small room to sleep in. Starshine worked very hard at taking care of the turkeys and she wore, every day, the cloak of furs and the ashes on her hands and face.

One Sunday evening, when Princess Starshine had a little bit of time to herself, she decided to clean off all the ashes and to put on one of her beautiful dresses. She was so happy to be back to her real self once again that she began to make a practice of doing this every Sunday afterwards.

There came a Sunday night when the handsome young Prince who lived in the palace was sent down to the kitchens on an errand for his mother, the Queen. As he went along a passage, dark and narrow, on his way to the kichens, the Prince saw a bright light coming from a keyhole. He knelt down to look through the keyhole and, to his amazement, he saw the beautiful Princess Starshine in her glorious dress made of the golden sunshine. At that very moment, the Prince fell in love!

He was even more amazed when, after completing his mother's errand, he asked the chief cook who slept in the little room in the narrow passage. A turkey-maid! That just could not be, the Prince thought. But he said no more to the cook and went back to his own part of the palace. All night, the Prince stayed awake, struggling to understand the mystery of the turkey-maid and realizing how much he loved the beautiful maiden he had seen.

By morning, the Prince had made himself quite ill with his worries, and the Queen went along to his rooms to see what was the matter with her son. "Oh, Mother," he said to her, "I think I will be all right if only I can have a little cake baked by the turkey-maid! She is a good baker, I've heard."

You can be sure that this request was a surprise to the Queen. But she was used to granting her dear son anything he asked, so very soon an order went down to the kitchens for the turkey-maid to bake a little cake for the Prince. That brought a surprise to the cook and all his helpers and to Starshine as well. But it was an order that must be obeyed when it came from the Queen, so Starshine washed away all the ashes and went to work on the cake.

As the young Princess stirred and stirred on the cake, she did not notice that a tiny golden ring her father had given her slipped from her little finger down into the cake batter. So no one knew that her ring was baked into the cake!

When the small cake was ready, it was rushed

to the royal chambers of the palace and to the rooms where the Prince lay pining in his bed. At once, he sat up and began to eat his cake -- and there he found the shining golden ring! Somehow, he knew what he must do and jumped from his bed and dressed himself. He rushed to the throne room and stood before the King and Queen. "Father and Mother," he announced, "I have found this little ring! You have been wanting me to marry, and I've decided to take for my bride whomever this little ring fits!"

The Queen and King hardly knew what to say but soon they agreed to their son's proposition. After all, he was always most loving and obedient and he seemed always "to have a good head on his shoulders," as they often expressed it. So, they thought, the owner of the little ring would surely turn out to be a perfect bride for their son just as he expected. They sent servants to call all the ladies-in-waiting and all the lady visitors to hurry to the throne room.

Alas, there was not a lady among them who could get the tiny golden ring on even her smallest finger. The Queen and King were distressed, but they had promised, so they called all the serving maids from all over the huge palace to come to the throne room too. Again, it was determined that not a one could wear the ring.

"Call the turkey-maid to come," said the Prince. This startled his parents and all those present, but the message to the turkey-maid was sent to the kitchens. When Starshine heard the

latest order from the throne room, she hardly knew what to do. She decided to put on her dress made of the brilliance of many stars, and to cover herself, then, with the cloak of furs. Trembling, she followed a servant to the part of the palace where she had never been, to the royal quarters.

When the Princess entered the throne room, she walked down the red carpet toward the throne with her eyes downcast. Though of royal blood herself, still she could not think why she had been called to see the King and Queen, for they had no idea of her presence in their palace.

Still looking at the carpet at her feet, Starshine stopped as she neared the throne, and dropped a dainty curtsy. A voice, gentle and kind, said to her, "Won't you try on this little ring?" She gasped as she at last raised her head and recognized not only her own little gold ring but saw the person before her — the young Prince, who was everything a Prince should be! Timidly, she put her hand toward him and, of course, the ring slipped on her finger at once. Then her fur cloak fell off her head and shoulders into a heap on the floor and the Princess Starshine was revealed in all her shining beauty and glory.

There was much explaining to be done and the King and Queen were very happy when the young Princess accepted the proposal of their son, the Prince, to be his bride. Starshine was doubly happy for now she could fulfill her own father's wishes too, by marrying this wonderful Prince of another kingdom. Word was sent to her father at

once to come for the wedding, and while they awaited his arrival, there was much celebrating and feasting amd merrymaking throught the entire kingdom.

* * * * *

Now, we have retold another Cinderella type story, and I'd like to ask you to think about one of the symbols in this story. It is the symbol of the three beautiful dresses. In almost every Cinderella story, the Cinderella-girl gets a lovely new dress or dresses. Remember how the maiden received new garments from the sister of the Invisible One in the story we printed last time? Remember how the Cinderella who travelled to the ball in a pumpkin coach was given a beautiful dress by her fairy godmother? In some of the Cinderella stories the dress is of many colors; or like the sun, the moon and the stars as are the dresses in this story; or a beautiful dress of flame; or one woven of sunbeams. These glorious dresses must have some meaning.

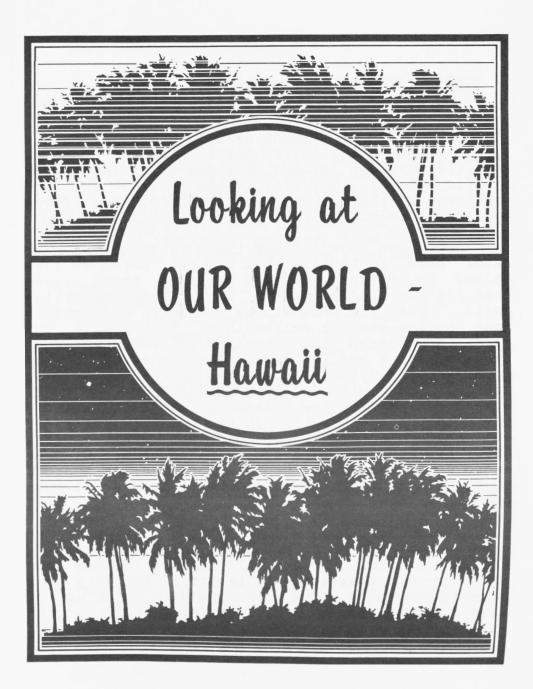
I like to think that the beautiful dresses represent the invisible world all around us in which our real self lives. This invisible world is as airy as the three dresses which were as fine as spider webs; and this world is a world of lovely colors and shining starlike brightness. We have this "aura" about us wherever we go and whatever we are doing, but we do not realize it very often. When we take off the selfish earth-thoughts and earth-actions -- like the ashes and the furry cloak

in the story -- and become our real selves by helping and serving others we sometimes catch glimpses of that wonderful invisible world. Remember that that is what Princess Starshine did.

Another way to see into that beautiful world around us is to think deeply about it every day -- just spend a little time thinking about your real self, a spark of God, living in that world of sparkling color and brightness. And, sometimes, perhaps -- poof! you will be there.

-- Nadine Hunter





The Beautiful World

The group of islands we call Hawaii is really the fiftieth state of the United States. You can see the Hawaiian Islands on a map which shows the Pacific Ocean; they are in the central Pacific, southwest of the city of San Francisco. See if you can locate them.

Have you ever visited these islands? I have never been to Hawaii, but all the persons I've talked to who have visited or lived there agree that it is indeed "Ke Ao Nani," the beautiful world. That is what it was called in the chants sung by the ancient Polynesians, the people who first discovered the Hawaiian Islands over one thousand years ago. They arrived in great canoes from islands 2,500 miles to the southeast, a long voyage indeed with only the stars to guide them. Other peoples from the islands to the south arrived over the years to settle in the beautiful islands, but White men from Europe did not arrive until about two hundred years ago. Since then, we have heard Ke Ao Nani described as "Paradise," a "Garden of Eden, " and a "Magical Kingdom." I think it must be all of these and more.

There are about 132 islands in the Hawaiian group, but only eight are major islands. The rest are tiny islets. We are calling them islands and islets -- but they are, in reality, the very tops of huge mountains. The mountains were built up of lava, spewed up over millions of years from the

interior of the earth in volcanic eruptions deep in the ocean floor.

What makes Hawaii a Paradise? The weather for one thing, for it is as nearly perfect in those islands as anywhere else in the world. Then, there is beauty just everywhere to see and marvel over. Most of the native plants and birds are found nowhere else and they are fantastically colored and lovely. The fruits seem magical too, don't they? What could be more perfect than the golden pineapples and bananas that come from Hawaii?

Perhaps there is a difference in the people who live there also; they seem to be more peaceful and happy than elsewhere. There was a certain amount of war-making in the history of old Hawaii, it is true. But, mostly, as new people went there from China, Japan, the Philippines, and many other places to live and work, they were made welcome and taken into the Hawaiian world. The white races too have been made a part of the Hawaiian peoples. The odd thing is that all these peoples have become one people -- they are all "Hawaiian" in feeling and culture.

The skyscrapers of the modern city of Honolulu on the island of Oahu reach toward the sky, but there are many places nestled among the islands where the old Hawaii still exists, where people live closer to the earth in more natural ways.

The Hawaiian people may be especially happy people because they celebrate many of the festivals and holidays that had belonged to the countries of

the new settlers from other lands. They did not forget their own -- they just added everyone else's! The Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival, celebrated every spring, is one of these.

AN OLD HAWAIIAN CELEBRATION

The ancient Hawaiians had no New Year's Day to celebrate for they used a calendar that was based on the cycles of the moon and was not divided into years.

What early Hawaiians did celebrate was a Makahiki season. This was their word for the time of the Winter Solstice. In every part of the world, the people of olden times could see that the days became shorter in late fall and then, miraculously it seemed, began to be longer again, starting about the 22nd of December. Then they knew that spring would soon be coming!

The Makahiki season was celebrated in old Hawaii from sometime in November until sometime in February. The people did not work and they did not make war, but they took part in games and fun. They believed that their god, Lono, the god of agriculture, made special visits to his people at this time of year. When Captain James Cook, an English explorer, discovered the Hawaiian Islands in 1778, it was the season of Makahiki, and he was mistaken for the god Lono! The Hawaiians heaped gifts and supplies upon him and his men.

[&]quot;Hauoli Makahiki Hou" -- "Happy Makahiki Season"!

SOME HAWAIIAN WORDS

It should be fun to know some real Hawaiian words. You may already know some and not realize it. The list below will give you some more to surprise your friends.

ae (ah-ay) yes

aloha (ah-lo-hah) greeting or farewell; hello or good-bye (That's one you already knew!)

hele mai (hay-lay-mah-ee) come here!

kaukau (kah-oo-kah-oo) food; when it's delicious, kaukau is ono

keiki (kay-key) child

lanai (lah-nah-ee) porch

lei (lay-ee) a garland or necklace of flowers, leaves, feathers or shells

luau (loo-ah-oo) outdoor Hawaiian feast

mahalo a nui loa (mah-hah-lo a noo-ee lo-ah) thank you very much

maikai (mah-ee-kah-ee) good, fine

Mele Kalikimaka (may-lay kah-lee-key-mah-kah)

Merry Christmas!

menehune (may-nay-hoo-nay) Hawaiian brownie or nature spirit

nui (noo-ee) big, large, great pau (pah-oo) finished, the end Tutuma (too-too-mah) grandmother Tutupa (too-too-pah) grandfather

wikiwiki (wee-key-wee-key) quickly

Well, pau!

-- N.H.

Legends of Hawaii

MAUI, THE SUPERHERO

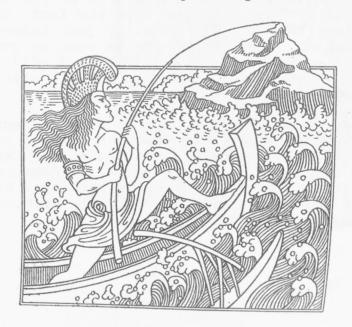
One of the Hawaiian Islands is named Maui, after a great god hero of the past. Maui was said to have a human mother, but was adopted by the gods of the ocean who raised him in the deep waters of their kingdom. He learned godlike powers from them and many times he used these powers to perform some mischief or other!

He is given credit for some good things too, however. It is said that he threw a lasso around the sun and slowed it down as it went across the sky, so that the part of the Pacific Ocean where the Hawaiian Islands now lie has longer and warmer days. There are also legends that Maui was the one who found out the secret of making fire from the gods, and showed the people of the Pacific Islands how to do this marvelous thing.

But the greatest deed he is given credit for is the actual bringing up of the Hawaiian Islands from the bottom of the ocean! When his brothers called him lazy and made fun of him as a fisherman, Maui went to the goddesses under the sea who were his ancestors. From them he obtained a magic fishhook and magic bait. Then he asked his brothers to paddle him far out to sea in their canoe, which they unwillingly did. At last, Maui let down the magic hook into the deep ocean waters,

and he and his brothers felt the tug of something really huge on the line. "Row toward home," Maui told his brothers, "and don't look back!" The rowing became harder and harder and, finally, one of the brothers just had to look back to see what huge fish was this. What he saw made him scream in fright and he dropped his oar -- for there was a huge mountainous land being drug from the sea!

Just then, the fishing line broke and the brothers looked back to see a marvelous sight. The first piece of land they saw was what we know now as the Big Island of the group, the one named Hawaii. Behind the Big Island, were a lot of smaller islands, all the ones of the Hawaiian chain. If the paddle had not been dropped and if the fishing line had not broken, more land would have been fished up and there would have been one piece of land all together and not a chain of islands. Or so the legend says!



PELE, GODDESS OF VOLCANIC FIRE

Of all the gods and goddesses of the ancient Hawaiian people, the Goddess Pele is the only one that is said to still survive. The story of Pele tells us that she originally came to Hawaii from Tahiti, arriving in a canoe with her divine brothers and sisters. She looked at each island in the Hawaiian chain and finally decided to live on the Big Island in a pit of Kilauea, a still active volcano.

And how do the Hawaiians know that Pele still lives? Because the volcanoes of Kilauea and Mauna Loa still erupt frequently, throwing up red hot lava from deep in the earth. The lava spills down the mountainsides and, when it cools, it adds to the size of the island. This is said to be the work of Pele herself. And then there is the fact that people continue to see Pele, usually just before a volcanic eruption. Sometimes she is seen as young and beautiful, with coal-black eyes and flaming hair. Other times, she is an old woman, walking alone with her white dog.

No one would dare to pick Pele's sacred flower, the <u>ohia lehua</u>, a spectacular ball of red, spiky flowerets. And only those who do not know would dare to pick up pieces of lava. Those who have taken lava rocks for souvenirs claim they have nothing but bad luck until the rocks are returned once more to Pele's own land.

Nature's HIDDEN Side

The Menehunes



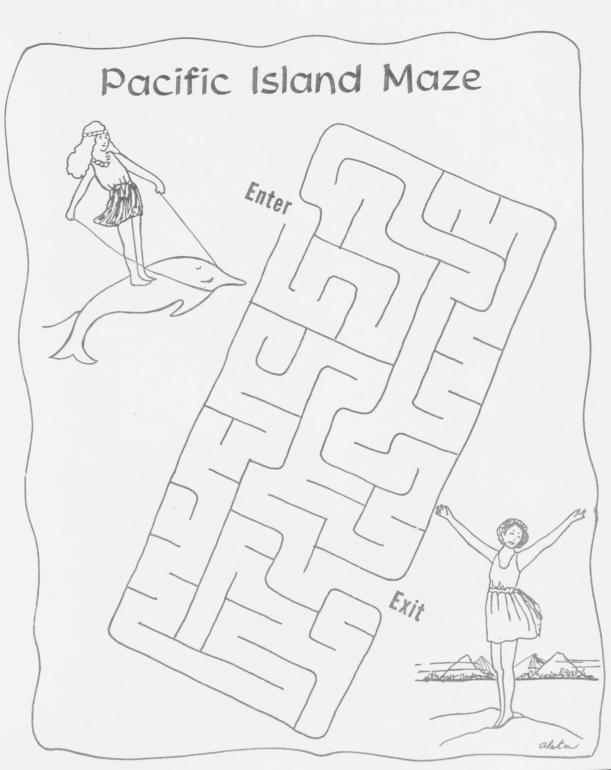
The Menehunes

The menehunes are the nature spirits of Hawaii. Perhaps they are more like brownies than any other types of nature spirits. They are described as little brown men, about two feet tall, who do their work only at night. The legends say that Kauai, one of the Hawaiian Island chain, was the original home of the menehunes.

One day -- so the story goes -- the King of the menehunes told his people that he wanted all of them to leave and make their home on another island far out in the Pacific Ocean. Some of the menehunes did not want to ever leave their Hawaiian home, so they hid out in the deep woods -- and there they are to this day!

In long-ago times, the menehunes were given credit for building projects, such as fish ponds, roads and sea walls made of large blocks of cut stone. They did their building only at night, so they could remain hidden during the day. Some parts of the old, old sea walls are still standing, and who can say they were not built by menehunes?

When a surprisingly nice thing happens, you will hear Hawaiians say, "The menehunes must have been here!" But the little brown men get credit for much of the mischief that happens as well!



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