

The Happy Prince

In a city, there is a statue known as the Happy Prince which stands on top of a tall pedestal. The statue has two sapphire eyes and is covered in gold leaves, but its heart is made of lead. The statue is loved by all of the people in the city for its beauty.

At the start of winter, one bird remained in the city. One night, the Bird slept under the statue of the Happy Prince. He was splashed by a raindrop which was really a tear falling from the Happy Prince's eye.

The Bird was surprised that somebody known as the Happy Prince was crying. The Happy Prince explained that he was happy when he was alive because he knew nothing of life outside. Only after dying did the Happy Prince learn about the life of the poor. As a statue, the Happy Prince can see all over the city and, although his heart is made of lead, he feels sad for the poor. He tells the Bird about a young man who is weak from hunger, asking that the Bird take one of his sapphire eyes to the young man. The Bird does so, but says he will fly home the next day. When the Bird returns to say goodbye to the statue, the Happy Prince tells him to give his other sapphire eye to a little girl in the square below. After having done so, the Bird promises to stay with the Happy Prince, who is now blind, forever.

The Bird flew around the city, watching the poor and telling the Happy Prince what he saw. The statue told the bird to take his gold leaves and give them to those in need. At the same time, the Bird became colder and knew that he would soon die. The Bird said goodbye to the Happy Prince one more time just before he died, at which the Happy Prince's lead heart broke.

The Mayor saw that the gold and sapphires were gone from the statue and found a dead bird at the statue's feet. The statue no longer being beautiful, the Mayor ordered that it be removed and melted down. However, it was impossible to melt the Happy Prince's lead heart, which was thrown away with the dead Bird.

God said that both the Bird and the Happy Prince will be happy forever in Paradise.