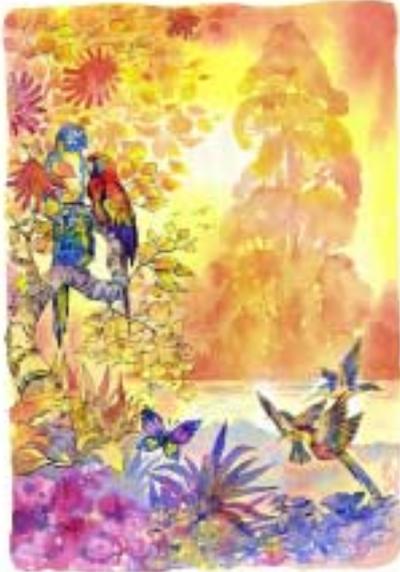




# Why the week has seven days



In the beginning God made heaven and earth. In heaven everything was beautiful, bright and happy. God lived there with the angels but nobody lived on the earth. It was formless and empty and dark. Then God thought he would make the earth a place where plants and animals could live. He said, 'Let there be light,' and light appeared because everything that God commands happens.

When evening came, it grew dark again and God said, 'Let us call the light, day, and the dark, night.' That was how the first day was born and how it ended. On the second day, God went on with his work to make the world. He said, 'Now let there be a blue sky above the earth!' No sooner had he commanded it than the sky was there.

On the third day, God made some dry places. He said, 'The water will be called the sea, and the dry parts, land.' After that God made all kinds of plants to grow. He made flowers and trees and grass and wheat.

On the fourth day, God made the sun. Early in the morning the sun lay low in the sky, but as the day passed it climbed higher in the sky and gave off soft warm light. Then, as evening came, the sun dropped lower and lower until finally it disappeared



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from sight. That night, however, it didn't get quite so dark, for God had made the moon and twinkling stars. God said, 'From now on the sun will shine in the daytime and the moon will shine at night.'

On the fifth day God made the fish in the sea and the birds in the air. He made big fish and little fish. He made them graceful, and their scales shone with many colours under the water. God gave the birds magnificent feathers with all the colours of the rainbow and He gave them voices so that they could sing as they flew among the trees. He taught the birds how to build their nests where they would lay their eggs from which baby birds would come.

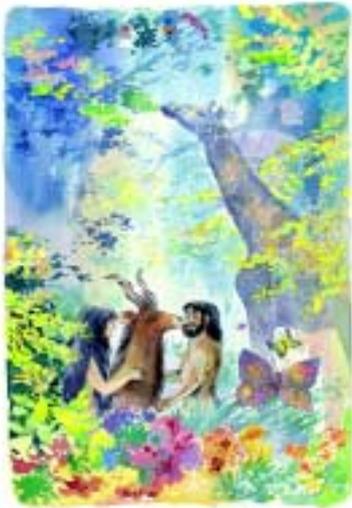
The sixth day was wonderful. First, God made all the animals, like horses, cows, rabbits and sheep. He made cats, dogs, elephants and mice - all the living things, both male and female. Then God said, 'Let us make man.' So God made the first man and called him Adam. God said, 'Adam, you will look after all the things I have made. You will rule over the fish, the birds and all the animals. All of them must obey you but you must obey me!' Adam listened carefully and understood.

The sixth day came and passed and on the seventh day God rested from his work, for in six days he had made everything. But there was one tree from which he was not allowed to eat. That tree stood in the middle of the garden and it was called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.





# Adam and Eve



God took good care of Adam. He made a lovely garden for him to live in, where flowers bloomed and birds sang. The garden was a wonderful place where Adam could be happy for ever. It was called the Garden of Eden. Sometimes God would come and talk to Adam when he was walking in the garden. When Adam heard God's voice he was happy to have God so close to him. Adam took care of the garden and ate as much as he pleased of the things that grew there.

God had told Adam: 'You may eat from any of the trees, but not from this one. If you eat the fruit from this tree you will die!' Adam listened carefully to God's instructions and did not eat the fruit.

One day God brought all the animals to Adam. He asked Adam to give each of them a name. But God also knew that Adam needed a friend. So after Adam had named all the animals God put Adam to sleep and when he woke there was a woman with him. God had made her for him, to be his wife and friend. Her name was Eve. Adam took Eve with him and showed her everything in the garden. They were both very happy. They had no pain or sickness. They were never sad or afraid for they lived close to God. God was their father and they were his children.

# The Snake, the Fruit and Sin



One day Eve was walking in the garden when she found herself close to the forbidden tree. As she approached it she heard a voice. It wasn't Adam and it certainly wasn't God. Eve looked and saw that it was a snake speaking to her. It stared at her with small beady eyes and said: 'Listen to me, is it true that you may not eat of any tree in the garden?' Eve answered, 'We may eat of all the trees, except this one. God told us that if we eat the fruit of this tree, we shall die.'

Then the sly snake whispered, 'Did God really say that? If you eat the fruit from this tree you will be happier than you are now, and you will be as wise and strong as God Himself!'

Eve looked at the fruit. It was beautiful, surely it must taste delicious too. Besides, Eve wanted to be as wise as God! Eve reached up and picked one. Part of the fruit she gave to Adam and part she kept for herself. God had clearly warned them not to eat the fruit from this tree, but they ate anyway. They had disobeyed God. No sooner had they taken the first bite than they knew that the snake had lied. They could feel it in their hearts, for they were no longer happy. They felt afraid, sad, and ashamed, because for the first time they noticed they had no clothes. Quickly they picked large leaves to cover themselves. Then they heard the voice of God! The voice, which had always made them happy before, made them terribly afraid and they ran to hide in the bushes.



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They hoped that God would not find them. God knows everything so of course he found them. He called to Adam, 'Adam, where are you?' Adam and Eve trembled as they came out from behind the bushes. They were so ashamed that they didn't dare to look at God. 'Did you eat the fruit from that tree?' he asked.



'Yes, Lord, but Eve gave it to me.' Adam answered. Then Eve added, 'Yes, Lord, but the snake told me I should eat the fruit.'

God was angry with the snake. The snake was really the enemy, Satan. Satan was the one who was really to blame! The enemy's name was Satan. He was jealous of God and wanted to spoil his wonderful world. Now, Adam and Eve could no longer be friends with God. They had disobeyed him and could never again be in the beautiful Garden of Eden. Having eaten the forbidden fruit, they had to leave the Garden.

But God still loved them dearly. He promised everything would one day be well again between God and mankind. He told Eve she would have children, and that some day a baby would be born who would defeat Satan. (God was talking about the Lord Jesus who would be born many years later in Bethlehem.) God then took animal skins and made clothes so that Adam and Eve would not shiver with cold when he sent them away from the garden. To make sure they could never come back he sent an angel to stand guard at the gate.

