

The Shepherdess's Crown

From 'Stories for Children' by Jacqueline Mehrabi



A little shepherdess was caring for her sheep on the hill. Her dress was thin and her feet were bare. Sometimes she wished that she was rich with a silken dress and silver shoes and a palace to live in and lots of toys. Until, one day her grandfather told her:

"Some little girls are real princesses with golden crowns and a hundred servants. But everyone can wear a crown which is much, much better than a princess's crown. It is made of good things like being kind and being wise and telling the truth and loving others. Like seeing the sheep are warm in winter and have enough grass and are well looked after. Every good thing that you do is like a

beautiful jewel to put in your crown."

The little shepherdess sat on the hill and looked at the wispy white clouds and the high-flying birds and the sun shining gold in the sky. And nobody saw that her dress was thin and her feet were bare, for on her head there shone a crown of light and love and truth and happiness.

Say: O God, my God! Attire mine head with the crown of justice, and my temple with the ornament of equity. Thou, verily, art the Possessor of all gifts and bounties."

Bahá'u'lláh