

THE APPLE TREE AND THE DRAGON

(traditional tale of Olympus)



Once upon a time, in a green meadow, there was a deep well, in which an apple tree had sprouted, making red and golden apples. Whoever ate from these apples became well, whatever disease might have! Alas! A wicked witch once put on guard of apple tree an awesome and terrible dragon who ate anyone approached there to cut apples...



There was a legend saying that this dragon was a Beauty enchanted lad, who had enchanted the wicked witch and the curse had not regain his human form, unless a girlfriend agreed to give him a kiss.



But no woman never approached the well, because all afraid that this terrible dragon will grab them! Until, one day, a lord came to the well, which had his wife terminally ill. "Have pity on me and let me get a golden apple for my sick wife. I do not want to lose her and left my only daughter orphaned", he begged the sad lord and fell to his knees weeping. The dragon, hearing that the prince had daughter, turned and said, "Send me your daughter to get the golden apple, if you want your wife to get well!"



The lord turned back to his mansion in black heart. What would he do now? How would save his wife without sacrifice his beloved daughter? That same evening recounted with tears in his daughter all that had happened. "We will lose her, your mother!" He said at the end weeping. "I will not lose her! Tomorrow I will go to the dragon and I will bring the miracle drug to the mother!" She replied boldly. "But, what will become of me if you lose you too?" Cried the lord of trying to change her mind.



But the noble daughter had taken her decision and so the next day she took the path that led to the well with the terrible dragon. "Look! I came as commanded my father! Give me now a golden apple to heal my beloved mother!" She said, reaching into the well, while trying to hide her fear. "Shoot first your long blonde hair into the well to lean on to go up close to you," said the dragon sweetly. What does the hapless girl do? Obeyed. She loosened her long blonde hair and let them fall into the deep well. Then, with a quick stride, the dragon was cast forth the. The noble girl stepped back bewildered as she saw how ugly and awful it was.



"You give me now the golden apple, I asked you?" She asked trembling with fear. "Yes, and if you first give me a kiss!" Said the dragon and approached her. She thought of his sick mother, and took courage. She closed her eyes to avoid seeing the terrible margin of the dragon and gave him a kiss on the forehead. But what was this miracle!



Once opened her eyes, she saw in front of her a beautiful lad, smiling sweet. "Thank you, my noble, for the good that you did! With this kiss finally solved the spell of a very evil witch who had cursed to spend my whole life in this deep and dark pit in the form of a dragon."

The lad cut a golden apple and gave it to the girl.



Then, immediately the magic apple tree and the well disappeared and nobody saw them since. Happy the noble ran together with the lad at home and gave the miraculous golden apple to the sick mother.



She just bit a tiny piece and immediately became well! Then the lord, happy, embraced the lad and gave him his only daughter for wife.



The magic apple tree and the well became, by word of mouth, legend and tale through the years and they all had to say how happy and loved they lived, the noble enchanted lad into old age gaining too many children.



And they lived happily ever after!!!!



Paintings by: **Klearchos Tsakalis** (Year 6, May 2016)