**A Christmas Story for Adam and Reanon**

Adam and Reanon were excited but then they were not alone in this as all around the world were children, like them, unable to sleep because it was Christmas Eve. They could still hear the adults below playing games and laughing and through the open door they could still see the lights of the tree that they had helped to decorate, placing stars and shepherds, clowns and wise men, tinsel and fairy lights so that the tree had been transformed from something quite ordinary into a thing of magic and at the very top they had placed an angel and she looked down on all that they had done and in her eyes she seemed to smile and tell them that it was good.  
I don’t know how long it was before they fell asleep because they had so much to talk about and the adults were just so noisy but eventually their eyes began to shut and they drifted out of this world and into that world in which we dream. I think it was Adam who awoke first but can you guess what actually woke him?  
Well I think however many times you try and guess you will never get the right answer because Adam had been woken up by a large snowflake that had settled on to the very end of his nose! Now what was a snowflake doing indoors, don’t they belong outside? He wriggled his nose and the snow flake melted and the icy water made him sneeze. He then got up to check the window to the bedroom to see if that was where the snow had come from but the window was shut, not even the smallest flake could have got in through there and then suddenly he felt a cold breath of air. Adam looked across the bedroom to see where the cold air had come from and he could not believe his eyes because he saw flakes of snow were blowing in through the small gap in the door that had been left a little open. He opened the door of the bedroom completely and a blizzard came whirling in covering everything inside the room almost instantly in a thick blanket of snow! Adam shouted with joy and ran to his sleeping sister and shook her. Can you imagine her surprise when she woke up and found herself covered from head to toe in snow! She quickly got up and the two children put on their dressing gowns, wellington boots and knitted woolly hats before holding hands and walking out of the bedroom and into the living room which was, after all, where the snow seemed to be coming from.

Bravely, they stepped out of the bedroom and through into the living room but it was not the living room anymore but instead another magical world! They could no longer see the glow of the fire and the silhouettes of chairs and the dinner table where they had eaten just hours before but instead they felt the wind on their faces and saw the snow fall in great, soft flakes all around them. In the distance they could see the Christmas Tree that they had helped to decorate that morning but it was no longer the size of a tall man but instead it was the size of a mountain and the lights that they had so carefully placed were now shining through the darkness and calling them like the lights from a lighthouse guiding lost and lonely sailors home. The children were both so excited that they ran towards the tree leaving their footprints in the snow, and how exciting it is to be the first person to ever leave your footprints in snow when it has freshly fallen! When they got close to the tree they noticed that from the branches hung sparkling ropes of tinsel strong enough for them to climb on.  
I think it was Reanon that suggested to Adam that they climb the tree and up the tinsel they went just like in Jack and the Beanstalk from the pantomime though both hoped that there wasn’t a giant in a castle at the top of the tree to say “Fee Fi Fo Fum” and turn them into a delicious boy and girl pie!

Well I don’t know if you have ever climbed a long way up a rope but it is hard work even when it is made from tinsel and after a several minutes the children were hot and tired and needed a rest so they scrambled out along one of the branches all the time trying very hard not to look below them as the ground was already a long way down. Finally, they found a place amongst the spiky needles to put their feet up for a short while.  
At first, they could hear nothing except their own breathing but after a time they began to hear the strangest of sounds which I can only describe as being a little like a pig that is rutting through the earth in search of acorns! What on Earth could be making that sound?  
Could it really be a gigantic pig? But then again I don’t believe that pigs can climb trees? What else could it be then?  
A dribbling dragon drooling dreadfully?  
Or a mighty monster munching mice?  
Now I must tell you now that Adam and Reanon are far braver than me because if I was them, on hearing that noise I would have been so frightened that I would have climbed down that tinsel as fast as I could and ran back to my bed and hidden myself under my blankets until the morning!  
Can you guess what they did instead?  
Well I did tell you that they were both very brave so they both decided to find out what was making the strange sound and so they walked along the branch in the direction that the strange sound was coming from even though both their hearts were beating so hard that they were fit to burst! And then suddenly in front of them there appeared three great camels and upon their backs were three tall men dressed from head to foot in robes of crimson, purple and gold, dressed, in fact, just as the Three Wise Men were who they had placed on the Christmas Tree earlier that day. The camels turned towards the children and one of them sneezed and one of them, I’m afraid to say, spat and the third made the strange bellowing sound that they had heard earlier. The Wise Men spoke sternly to their badly mannered beasts and then dismounted and bowed before the children before apologising again for the poor manners of their camels.  
“Where have you come from?” Said Reanon and the first of the Wise Men unwound the scarlet robe from his face and began to speak,  
“We have come thousands of miles my child, we have travelled across deserts so hot that the sand itself burned and climbed mountains so high that one could stretch up from their summits and touch the moon!”  
The Second Wise man unwrapped the golden robe from his face and joined in with,  
“In the skies we have seen dragons and in the sea we have seen Sea Serpents, we have dined with Kings and we have also gone so hungry that all we had to eat was the leather belts around our robes!”  
And then the Third Wise Man unwrapped the purple robe around his face and said  
“We have done all this because we know that we must follow a star to wherever it leads us, we do not know if in the end our journey will make us happy or sad, or wise or foolish but we just know that that is what we must do.”  
And then he smiled and said, “Here, I have a gift for each of you.” And he gave each child a set of the tiniest pearls and each pearl sparkled just like a real but tiny star and then the Wise Men turned and began to climb up onto their camels and ride off. “Thank You and Good Luck!” The children shouted.  
“Good Luck on your journey too!” The Three Wise Men replied and they swiftly disappeared into the snow that still continued to fall.  
The children put the pearls that the Three Kings had given them carefully away into their pyjama pockets. Up above them they could just make out though the falling icy flakes the rosy glow of one of the fairy lights and carried on the wind the sounds of singing and instruments playing. Using the branches of the tree like a particularly prickly ladder the children climbed up towards where the singing was coming from and as they got closer they began to also hear the sound of dogs barking excitedly and finally the sounds of sheep lowing and lambs bleating. And then there, in front of them was the red glow of the fairy light and gathered around it, just as if it was a camp fire were shepherds and all of them were singing at the tops of their voices from the oldest through to the youngest. Dashing around the shepherds were their dogs and one of them looking up, noticed both children and rushed up towards them barking loudly before herding them towards the shepherds as if they were both a pair of sheep! “Join us!” Shouted all the shepherds and both children snuggled in between a lamb, a dog and two of the smaller shepherds. The shepherds began to sing again and by some miracle the children were able to join in with them all as if it was a song that they already knew off by heart. The song was very beautiful with a melody that was both happy and sad. It sang of nights spent alone on the frozen mountain side with the brilliant stars of the night sky for company and it sang of the wolves that lurked in the darkness and threatened their flocks and it sang of the joys of friendship and the love of home. And when the song was done all the shepherds turned their faces upwards and at the very top of tree the children saw the angel that they had placed there that very afternoon and she looked down on the children and smiled.  
So the children sang their farewells to the shepherds and the shepherds sang them back but before they left the smallest of the shepherds gave each child a gift and it was a lamb that was carved from wood and although at first sight the carving looked small and simple a closer look revealed it to be as beautiful as the song that the shepherds had just sung. The children thanked the shepherds and then they climbed higher and higher until they were at the very top of the tree and waiting for them there was the angel but she was no longer the size of a tiny doll but was now at least twice as big as the children and surrounding her was a golden light that lit up the whole of the top of the tree.  
The angel took the children by the hand and spoke and her voice was so beautiful that I cannot describe it, for what might be beautiful to me may be less so to you, so just imagine a sound that is perfect to you and let the angel speak with that voice.  
And the angel said, “Dear Children, it is Christmas Day, what gift can I give you?”  
And the children thought long and hard of all the wonderful presents that they could have but instead they both said at the same time,

“Let tonight be real”  
And the angel smiled and said,  
“So be it.”

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It was late on Christmas morning and the adults were wondering why, on this day of all days, the children weren’t awake yet. Finally, they could wait no longer to open their own presents and so they entered the children’s room. The children were still fast asleep, but as the adults lent across the bed to gently stir them from their slumbers they noticed something strange and that was that the children’s hair was covered with the most delicate icing of snow crystals.  
How could that have happened they wondered? There were no open windows and the room was warm anyway? It certainly was a mystery but they were sure there had to be a reasonable explanation though I must tell you that none of them ever managed to come up with one. Slowly the children yawned and awakened and everyone joined in wishing everyone else a Happy Christmas and then they left the children to get dressed. The children looked across at each other and smiled.  
“Happy Christmas!” they both said and then, as if by magic, they both felt something in the top pockets of their pyjamas and each of them drew from there a pearl that glowed like a tiny star and an equally small, but exquisitely carved, cedar wood lamb.