

The Birdbath Teaches a Lesson

Elizabeth was a very sweet little girl who was taught by her mother when she was just a toddler, to turn to God when she needed help with something. She often was able to work out the problems that came to her without help from her mother.

One morning, when she woke up, she did not feel well enough to get up and go to school. As she rested in her bed she was thinking about God and trying to know the truth about her oneness with Him. Outside her window, she could hear the birds taking their morning dip in the birdbath. How she loved to watch them as they played in the water, ruffling their feathers and splashing the water over the side of the bath.



Suddenly, she noticed a large round spot of light on the ceiling of her bedroom. At first, the light was still, and then it started to dance and turn into different shapes. One time it disappeared altogether. Then, after a few minutes, it would appear again. Elizabeth watched the spot of light for some time. When her mother came into the room, Elizabeth pointed to it and said she had been watching it moving and changing shape.

"That is a reflection," her mother said and walked over to the window. "The sun is shining onto the water in the birdbath and the water reflects the light onto your ceiling." As Mother watched from the window, two birds came to take their morning bath. When they went into the water, the light that was reflected on the ceiling danced around this way and that, and then disappeared. When the birds flew off and the water was calm again, the bright circle of light was back shining on Elizabeth's ceiling.

Mother saw that this might be a good lesson for Elizabeth about reflection. She said, "You see, Dear, when our thoughts, like the water in the birdbath, are calm and quiet, it is because we are knowing that we are perfect as God's children. It is then that we are reflecting God. But if we allow error to come into our thinking, we are disturbed like the water was, and we do not reflect God, who is the light."

Elizabeth thought about this for a while. Then she said that she remembered a verse from the Bible. It says that we need to know all the time that we are as perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect. Mother said that Mary Baker Eddy told us that since God is our creator and He is perfect, we also are perfect as His reflection.

As all of this wonderful truth became clear to Elizabeth, she jumped out of bed and began looking in her closet for the clothes she wanted to wear to school. She was excited to be going off to school, because then she could be reflecting to her friends the light that she was as the gentle beam of God's love.

Matthew 5:48 "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

S&H 470:21 "God is the creator of man, and, the divine Principle of man remaining perfect, the divine idea or reflection, man, remains perfect."