



**“COME, MY CHILDREN, I AM GOING TO  
TRANSPORT YOU TO YOUR PALACE.”**

## **PRINCE CHOI**



**An Old Fairy Tale**



A LearningIsland.org  
15 - Minute Book

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Prince Choi/An Old Fairy Tale

Summary: A tale of a good prince and what happens to him.

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and cried, “Poor little dog, do not touch that food. It is poisoned.”

Just then a voice was heard saying, “You see that a good action meets with reward.” At the same time Choi was changed into a pretty white pigeon.

For several days he flew around hoping to catch sight of Zoe. At last he found her. She was seated by a hermit, outside a cave.

He fluttered down and landed upon her shoulder. Zoe stroked his feathers. She whispered that she now accepted his gift and would love him always. At that moment Choi changed back into his real shape. The Fairy Candide appeared in place of the hermit whose form she had taken.

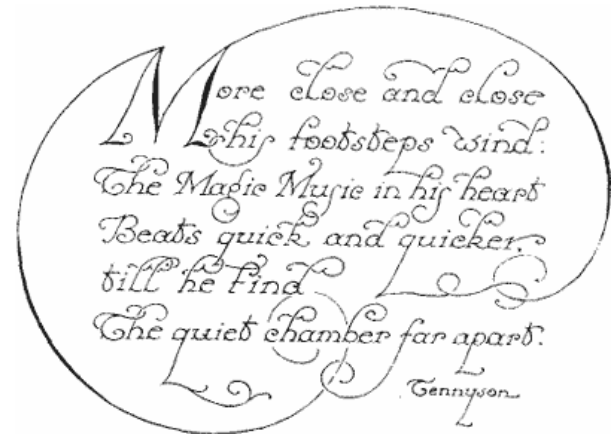
“Come, my children,” she said. “I am going to take you to your Palace. There Choi may receive his crown, now that he is worthy of it.

As soon as she stopped speaking they found themselves in Suliman's presence.

The good man was overjoyed to see his dear master. He gladly turned the throne over to him.

Choi and Zoe were married. Prince Choi put the ring back on his finger, but he was so good that it never again pricked him.

Choi and Zoe reigned long and happily.



“I am hungry,” thought Choi, “but if I give my breakfast to this poor thing, perhaps I shall save her life.”

He placed his bread in the girl's hand, and she ate it hungrily. Just then he heard loud cries. He saw that it was the beautiful Zoe struggling to free herself from four men who were carrying her into a nearby house.

Choi wanted to help her, but what could he do. He was only a little dog. He followed the men, barking and biting at the men. Even though the men kicked him savagely, he would not leave the place.

Suddenly a plate full of wonderful food was thrown from a window. Choi was just about to devour it. Suddenly the girl he had given the bread to, rushed forward. She threw her arms around him

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## PRINCE CHOI

There was once a king who was such a good man that his people called him “The Good King.”

One day while he was out hunting, a little rabbit threw itself into his arms. The King's dogs were chasing it and were about to kill it. The King petted the little animal, and said: “You have jumped in my arms, so no one shall harm you.” He carried the rabbit to his palace, and ordered a pretty little hutch to be made for it.



“I accept the throne,” said Suliman, “but it is to preserve it for Prince Choi. A fairy has revealed to me that he is not dead. Maybe he will return to you as good as in his early years.”

Suliman burst into tears. “His flatterers have ruined him. I know that at heart he is good.”

These words made Choi sad for his crimes. He felt that he had not been punished as severely as he deserved. He decided to do better.

He obeyed the man who owned him, even though the man often beat him. One day when this keeper lay asleep, a tiger broke loose and was about to eat him. Choi fought the fierce beast, and saved the man's life.

Then a voice was heard saying, “A good action shall be rewarded!” To Choi's joy he was instantly changed into a pretty little dog. The keeper carried the dog to the Queen.

The Queen was delighted with him, but she was afraid he would grow bigger. She gave him only small pieces of bread to eat, so that poor Choi nearly died of hunger.

One day he carried his little piece of bread into the garden to eat it there. He wandered with it in his mouth. He kept going until he saw a young girl. She was pale and thin, and almost fainting for want of food.

As soon as the fairy stopped speaking, Choi felt himself changed. He looked at himself in horror.

He had a lion's head, a bull's horns, the feet of a wolf, and the tail of a snake. At the same moment he found himself in a forest.

He roamed around for some time, feeling miserable. Suddenly he fell into a pit dug by hunters. He was captured and led into the capital of his Kingdom.

On the way there he bit at his chains and cursed the fairy. He refused to believe that he had brought this onto himself.

As he was nearing the city people were celebrating. When the hunters asked the reason, they were told that Prince Choi had been crushed to death in his chamber. He had liked to torment his people. They felt that his death was a just punishment for his behavior.

Four of his wicked friends had tried to cut up the Kingdom between them. The people would not let any of them rule. They had offered the crown to the good and wise Suliman.

Choi panted with rage on hearing this. In the Palace Square he saw Suliman on a superb throne. All the people shouted with joy, and wished him a long life to repair the evil brought about by their former king.

That night when he was alone in his room, there appeared a lovely lady. She wore a robe as white as snow, and a wreath of white roses on her head.

“I am the Fairy Candide,” she said. “I wanted to see if you were as good as everyone says you are. That’s why I changed myself into the little rabbit, and ran to you. I know that those who have pity for little animals have still more pity for mankind. I have come to thank you for what you did and to say that I shall always be your friend. I will grant any wish you would now like to make.”

“Madam,” said the King, “I have one only son whom I love dearly. He is named Prince Choi. If you have any good will for me, be a friend to my son.”

“Gladly,” said the Fairy, “I will make your son the most handsome prince in the world, or the richest, or the most powerful. Choose what you want for him.”

“I want none of these things,” replied the King. “But I shall be very happy if you will make him the best of all princes. What good would it do for him to be handsome, rich, or powerful if he were wicked? You know he would be unhappy, for it is only goodness which brings happiness.”



“You are right,” answered the Fairy. “But I cannot make him good. Prince Choi must himself work for that himself. All that I can promise is that I will give him good advice, and punish him for his faults, if he will not himself correct them.”

And with this the father had to be content.

Not long afterwards the good King died. Two days later the Fairy appeared to Prince Choi.

“I promised your father to be your friend,” she told him. “Here is a little gold ring. Take care of it, for it is worth more than diamonds. Every time that you are about to do any wrong thing it will prick

advice and your crimes have turned you into a monster. You are the horror of heaven and earth.

“Now it is time to fulfill my promise of punishment. I condemn you to look like the beasts you act like: A lion, because of your fury, a wolf because of your greediness, a snake for destroying the man who has been your second father, and a bull for your brutality.”



order her to marry him. If she would not, the very next day she would be sold as a slave.

But when he got to the room, he was surprised. Zoe had disappeared! How could this be? He carried the only key in his pocket.

Among those at the Royal Palace Court was a man named Suliman. He was a good man. He had often dared to tell the Prince of his faults.

At first the Prince had thanked him for this. Later on Choi grew angry that anyone would blame him. In his heart of hearts the Prince respected this good man.

The wicked men of the court knew this. They were afraid that the Prince would start to listen to this man.

They lied and said that it was Suliman who had helped Zoe to escape. Prince Choi was very angry. He commanded his soldiers to bring Suliman to him in chains, like a criminal.

After giving these orders Choi retired to his chamber. He had just entered when the earth trembled. There came a loud clap of thunder, and the Fairy Candide appeared before him.

“I promised your father,” said she in a stern voice, “to give you good advice, and to punish you if you refused to follow it. You have ignored my

you. If, in spite of the pricks, you continue your bad actions, you will lose my friendship and I shall become your enemy.”

Saying this the Fairy vanished, leaving the Prince very much astonished.

For some time Choi behaved so well that the ring did not prick at all. Then one day he was returning from a hunt. He had caught nothing that day and he was very angry. When his dog Bibi came fawning upon him, he kicked the poor, faithful dog. At that moment the ring pricked like a pin running into his finger.

“What is this?” he yelled. “The Fairy must be mocking me. Surely I've done no great harm in kicking an animal that annoyed me. What's the use of being ruler of a great empire if I cannot treat my dog as I want?”

“I am not mocking you,” he heard in reply to his thoughts. “You have been bad tempered, and you have behaved unkindly to a poor animal who did not deserve it. I know you are higher than a dog. However, the advantage of being ruler of a great empire is not in doing all the harm one wishes, but in doing all the good one can.”

Choi promised to be better, but he did not keep his word. He was often bad and the ring often

pricked him. Sometimes he was so bad that his finger bled. At last he threw it away in anger.

Now he thought he would be truly happy, and he gave way to any foolish fancies and wrong wishes that came into his head. Finally he really became very wicked and was disliked by everyone.

One day when he was out walking he saw a girl named Zoe. She was so beautiful that he decided to marry her.

But Zoe was as good as she was beautiful. She said to him:

“Sir, I am only a shepherdess and have no fortune. In spite of that, I will never marry you. Even though I would be a Queen, and you are handsome and rich, your evil deeds would make me hate you.”

Upon this, Choi flew into a rage. He ordered his guards to carry Zoe to the Palace. He kept her there, but he did not treat her badly, for he loved her.

For a long time everything was fine. But Prince Choi’s step-brother was a bad man. He kept telling Prince Choi that he should force the girl to marry him.

Finally Prince Choi got angry. He rushed into the room in which Zoe was kept. He was going to



**ZOE AND THE FAIRY CANDIDE  
“PRINCE CHOI”**

*Painted by Jennie Harbour*