

had all been spilled. Without saying anything to anyone, she had replaced it by a similar flask that she took from the King's apartment. She filled it with the water that was used when the princes or great lords were condemned to death. Instead of being beheaded, their faces were washed with this water. This made them fall asleep forever.

One night the King used this water. He hoped to be made more handsome. Then he went to sleep and awoke no more.

Cabriole heard what had happened. He went and told Avenant. Avenant asked him to go to the Princess Goldenhair and beg her to remember the poor prisoner.

When the Princess heard this message, she went straight to the tower. With her own hands, she struck off the chains that bound Avenant. Then she placed a crown of gold upon his head, and a royal mantle upon his shoulders.

“Come, dear Avenant,” she said. “I will make you King, and take you for my husband.”

Then there was a grand wedding, and Princess Goldenhair and Avenant, with Cabriole, lived long and happy lives.

## PRINCESS GOLDENHAIR



### An Old Fairy Tale



A LearningIsland.org  
15 - Minute Book

*Editor: Jennifer Robinson*

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Princess Goldenhair/An Old Fairy Tale

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said to him: “If you wish, we need not go. I will marry you and make you king of my country.”

But Avenant said, “I would not displease my master for all the kingdoms on earth. I say this even though your beauty is greater than that of the sun.”

Finally, they arrived at the King's palace. The wedding took place amid great rejoicing.

But Princess Goldenhair loved Avenant from the depths of her heart. She was not happy unless she could see him, and was always singing his praises.

“I would not have come, if it had not been for Avenant,” she told the King. “You ought to be very grateful to him.”

Then the envious courtiers talked to the King. Once more Avenant was cast into the tower. He was chained hand and foot.

When Princess Goldenhair heard of this, she fell on her knees before the King. She begged for Avenant's release. The King would not hear her. Finally, she became sad that she would not speak.

Then the King thought: “Maybe I am not handsome enough to please her!” He decided to wash his face in the water of beauty.

Now it had happened that a chambermaid had broken the flask containing this wonderful water. It

Avenant saw all this. He was scared to die, but he could not abandon his master. He drew his sword and stepped forward.

“My days are ended,” he said to Cabriole. “I can never get the water the dragons are guarding. When I am dead, fill this flask with my blood and carry it to the Princess. Then she will know what she has cost me. Then go to the King, my master, and tell him of my misfortune.”

As he was speaking, a voice called, “Avenant, Avenant.” Looking around he saw an owl. “You saved my life from the hunters,” said the owl. “I promised to repay you and the time has now come. Give me your flask. I will bring you the water of beauty.”

Carrying the flask, the owl entered the grotto. The dragons did not stop him. He returned in less than a quarter of an hour with it full to the brim.

Avenant thanked the owl very much. He joyously started for the town. There he presented the flask to the Princess. She immediately gave orders to prepare for her departure.

But the Princess thought about it. She thought Avenant was very charming. Before she set out, she

## **PRINCESS GOLDENHAIR**

There was once a King's daughter who was the most beautiful thing in the world. Her hair was fair and reached to her feet, so she was called Princess Goldenhair.

A handsome young King in the neighborhood heard about her. Even though he had never seen the Princess, he fell so deeply in love with her that he could not eat or sleep.

So an ambassador was sent with a magnificent chariot, more than a hundred horses, and fifty servants. They were to bring the Princess to the King. Great preparations were made for her reception.



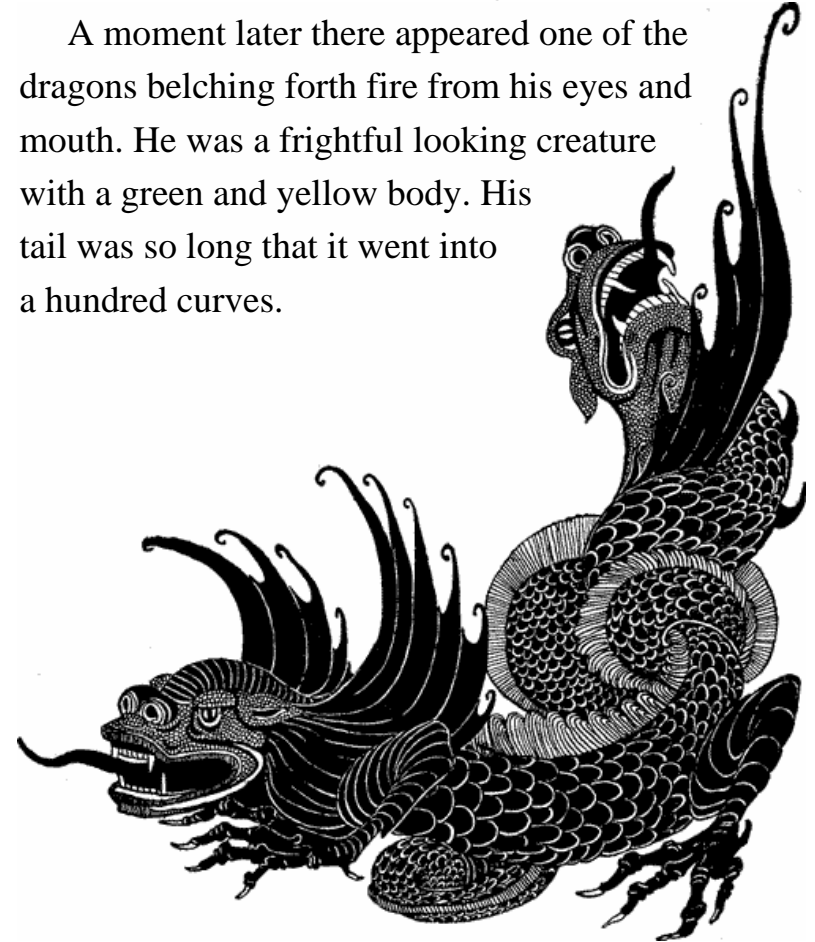
**“AN AMBASSADOR WAS SENT WITH  
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wash in it stay beautiful always. If they are ugly, they become beautiful. If they are young, they remain young. If they are old, they regain their youth. You must understand, Avenant, that I will not leave my kingdom without taking it with me.”

She gave him a flask to hold the water.

So once more Avenant and Cabriole set out. They journeyed on until they came to a rock, black as ink. There was smoke coming from the rock.

A moment later there appeared one of the dragons belching forth fire from his eyes and mouth. He was a frightful looking creature with a green and yellow body. His tail was so long that it went into a hundred curves.



Avenant struck him so many times that at last he fell to the ground. Then Avenant cut off his head.

The raven flew to a tree and looked down on Avenant.

“I have not forgotten how you rescued me from the eagle. I promised to repay you. I think I have done so today.”

“I owe everything to you, Mr. Raven,” said Avenant. He took Galifron's head in his arms and he rode off.

When he entered the town, crowds followed him. “Here is the brave Avenant,” they cried. “He has slain the monster.”

Avenant went to the Princess. “Madam, your enemy is dead.” he said. “I hope you will now accept my master the King.”

“Even so,” answered the Princess, “I shall refuse him unless you will bring me some water from the Grotto of Darkness. At the entrance there are two dragons, with fire in their eyes and mouths. Inside the grotto there is a deep pit into which you must descend. It is full of toads, scorpions, and serpents.

At the bottom of this pit, there is a little cave. There flows the fountain of beauty and health. I must have the water. All the beautiful people who

But for one reason or another, Princess Goldenhair sent a message to the young King. She thanked him but said that she did not wish to marry.

When the King heard of her refusal, he wept like a child.

Now at his Court there was a young man called Avenant. He was as beautiful as the sun, and a more finely made fellow than any in the kingdom. Everybody loved him except a few envious people. They were angry because the King favored and confided in him.

One day, Avenant said, “If the King had sent me to fetch the Princess Goldenhair, I am certain she would have come.” These words were repeated to the King in such a manner that they made him very angry. He ordered Avenant to be shut up in a high tower, to die of hunger.

One day Avenant exclaimed, “How have I offended his Majesty? He has no more faithful subject than I.”

The King who happened to be passing by the tower, heard this. He called for Avenant to be brought forth. Avenant threw himself on his knees and begged to know how he had offended his royal master.

“You mocked me,” said the King. “You said that you would have succeeded with the Princess Goldenhair where I have failed.”

“It is true, sir,” replied Avenant. “I did say so, for I would have represented your noble qualities in such a way, that she could not help falling for you.”

The King was convinced of the young man's sincerity. He gave Avenant a letter of introduction to the princess.

Avenant set out for the Court of the goldenhaired beauty. He rode alone, as he wished. As he traveled, he thought how he best could woo the Princess for his beloved master.

One day he got an idea. He got down from his horse to write down the words that had come into his mind.

He saw a golden carp that had leapt from the water to catch flies. She had landed on the riverbank and was now nearly dead.

Avenant pitied the poor thing. He put her carefully back into the water. Recovering quickly, the carp dived to the bottom. Then she returned to the edge of the river.

“Avenant, I thank you,” she said. “You have saved my life and I will repay you.” Then she swam off leaving the young man very shocked.

will kill him.” Avenant admired the bravery of the little dog, but he knew his help would not be enough.

Soon they saw that the roads were covered with the bones of the men that Galifron had eaten. Then they saw the giant coming towards them through a wood. His head was higher than the highest trees. He sang in a terrific voice:

“Where are the children small, so small,  
With my teeth I will crush them all,  
On so many would I feed, feed, feed.  
The whole world can't supply my need.”

Using the same tune, Avenant began to sing:

“Look down, here is Avenant beneath, beneath  
He will draw from your head, the teeth, the teeth  
Although he is not very big, 'tis true,  
He is able to fight with a man like you.”

The giant got very mad. He prepared to kill Avenant with one blow. Suddenly a raven flew at his head. The bird pecked him straight in the eyes, and he was blinded.

Galifron began striking out on all sides, but Avenant avoided his blows. With his sword,



Taking Cabriole, Avenant set out for Galifron's country. He asked about the giant as he went along. The more he heard, the more he feared him.

Cabriole reassured him. "My dear master," said the little dog, "while you are fighting him I will bite his legs. Then he will stoop to chase me, and you

Another day as Avenant journeyed he saw a raven that was pursued by an eagle. "What right has that eagle to hurt the raven?" he thought. He drew his bow and shot the fierce bird. The raven flew down and perched on a bough.

"Avenant you have saved my life," he cried. "I will not be ungrateful. I will repay you."

Not long after this, Avenant found an owl caught in a snare. He cut the strings, and freed the trembling captive. "Avenant," said the owl, "you have saved my life. I will repay you."

Avenant then went on his way.

Just before he arrived at his destination, he bought a beautiful little dog named Cabriole.

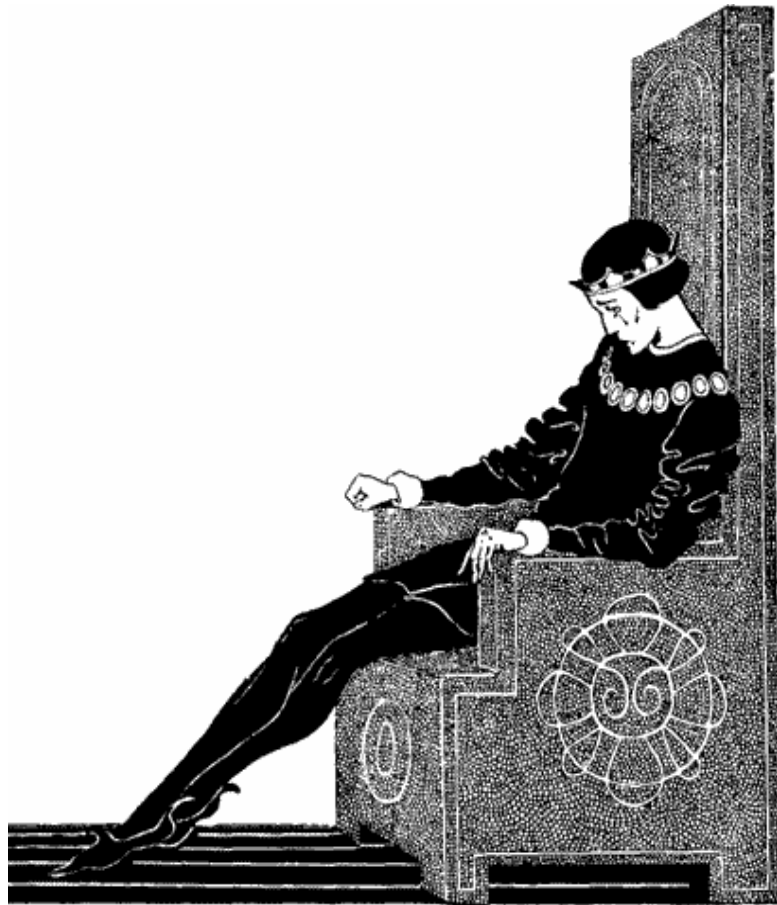
When Avenant reached the Palace of the Princess Goldenhair, and saw the Princess seated upon her throne. She looked so lovely that at first he could not speak.

Taking courage, he spoke to her in beautiful words. He begged her to become the King's bride.

To this, the Princess replied most graciously. She said that his petition moved her more than any other could do. "But," she added, "I was walking by the river a month ago. As I took off my glove, a ring, that I greatly value, fell into the water. I have vowed

that I will not hear any proposal, except from the ambassador who brings me my ring.”

Avenant was sad as he left the Palace. Then his little dog, Cabriole, said, “My dear master, you are too good to be unhappy. Early tomorrow morning let us go to the river.” Avenant patted him, but did not answer. Still sad, he fell asleep.



As soon as it was day, Cabriole awoke him. “Dress yourself, and come out,” he said.

They wandered down to the river. There Avenant heard a voice calling him. What should he see but the golden carp, with the Princess's ring in her mouth. “Take it, dear Avenant,” she said. “I promised to repay you for saving my life, and now I can fulfill my promise.”

Thanking her a thousand times, Avenant ran to the Palace. “Princess, your command is fulfilled,” he cried. “Here is your ring. Now will you marry my master?”

The Princess thought she must be dreaming when she saw the ring. She put it on her hand, and then she set Avenant another task.

“Not far from here there is a prince named Galifron,” she said. “He wishes to marry me. He threatens to destroy my kingdom if I refuse. How can I accept him? He is a giant, taller than my highest tower. He eats a man as a monkey would eat a banana. When he speaks, his voice is so loud that it deafens those who hear him. He will not take my refusal, but kills my subjects. You must fight him and bring me his head.”

“Well, madam,” replied Avenant, “I will fight Galifron. I probably will be killed, but I shall die a brave man.”