

Saint George And The Dragon

A story told in Europe and Persia

A terrible dragon had ravaged the country round the city of Silene in Libya. It had made its lair in a marshy swamp, where its horrible breath caused pestilence and destruction.

Every time the Dragon approached the town it terrified the people. Though they gave the dragon two sheep every day, this was still not enough to satisfy its hunger.

So the townspeople decided that the young men and woman from the town would have to be fed to the dragon one by one...



The Dragon

One day it was the king's daughter's turn to be fed to the dragon. The king, distraught with grief, told the people they could have all his gold and silver and half of his kingdom if his daughter was spared. But the people refused and she was sent to the dragon's lair.



St. George

Just then a brave knight named Saint George chanced to ride by. He asked the princess what she was doing alone in the cold and misty swamp. She told him she was waiting for the dragon to come and eat her, and begged him to leave in case the dragon ate him too.

But the good knight stayed, and when the dragon appeared through the mist of the marsh, he turned his horse towards the beast and charged.

They fought fiercely until Saint George managed to hold the dragon with his lance. Then he asked the princess for her girdle so that he could bind it round the neck of the dragon. The princess was able to lead the dragon like a lamb.

They returned to the city, where Saint George told the people not to fear the dragon. The king would gladly have given George half his kingdom as a thank you, but the saint replied that he must ride on.

But before he left, he told the king to take good care of his people, especially the poor and less fortunate among them.