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STORY
OF
THE FIRST MAN.

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STORY OF THE FIRST MAN.

In the beginning, a very long time ago, God created the heavens and the earth. God did not make them out of any thing; He only spoke and they were made. The earth was at first a waste of rock, and sand, and sea. God, by degrees, made it fit to be a dwelling-place for man. He said, let grass grow; let herbs spring up; let there be trees to bear pleasant fruit; let sweet flowers come from the earth. Then God made the fish of the sea. He made the

birds which fly in the air and live among the trees. Next He made cattle, sheep, and other animals which walk on the ground.

But though the beautiful world was now full of animals, there was no living creature in it able to know and praise its Creator. God, therefore, last of all, made man. God took some of the dust of the ground and made the body of a man; then He breathed into him and gave him a soul. Thus the man could think, and talk, and understand about God. Beasts have no souls, and they therefore cannot think of God.

The name of the first man was

Adam. God created him holy and happy. Adam was placed in a beautiful, well-watered garden, full of trees covered with fruit. God shewed Adam, all the beasts and birds, and let Adam give them what names he pleased. Adam was also made king over all things in the earth.

But Adam had no friend to be with him. Then God made the first woman to be a companion to Adam. God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep ; next He took a bone out of his side, and made it into a woman. When Adam woke, he saw her and loved her very much. He called her name Eve.

The garden in which Adam and Eve lived was the most beautiful place in all the world; it was called Eden, or delight. The grass was green, the flowers were bright, the trees full of every kind of pleasant fruit; and the waters clear. The birds sang sweetly, and all that lived in that garden were happy. Adam and Eve loved one another, and they loved God.

God allowed Adam to eat of the fruit that grew on all the trees, except one which stood in the middle of the garden. He commanded Adam not to eat of it; if he did, he should surely die. The name of the tree was "the

tree of knowledge of good and evil."

There are a great many wicked spirits, the chief of whom is called Satan. Satan did not like to see Adam and Eve so good and happy. He knew that he could not make them unhappy so long as they obeyed God. He therefore tried to make them sin.

Satan came into the garden, looking like a serpent, and found Eve alone near the tree whose fruit they were not to eat. Pretending to be kind, Satan said to Eve, "Is it true that God has said you shall not eat of every tree in the garden?" Eve answered that



they might eat of the fruit of all the trees except one. If they ate of it, they should die.

Satan then told a lie. He said to Eve, "You shall not surely die; but in the day you eat of it you shall become as gods, knowing good and evil."

The woman was afraid to eat; but she looked and thought the fruit *nice*; she looked again, and thought it *pretty*; and she thought, "I should like to be *wise*." So she ate some of the fruit, and gave some to Adam who ate it too.

Adam and Eve knew that they had done wrong, and they were afraid of God. In the evening, when they heard God speaking in the garden, they went and hid themselves among the trees. But God saw them, for He can see everywhere.

God said to Adam, "Where art thou?" Then Adam said, "I was afraid, because I was naked; and

I hid myself." God said to Adam, "Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree of which I commanded thee not to eat?" Adam said, "The woman whom Thou gavest to be



with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." Adam threw the blame upon Eve, and upon God

too for giving him Eve. God said to Eve, "What is this that thou hast done?" Eve threw the blame upon the serpent. She said, "The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat." How much better it would have been if they had both confessed their own sin, and asked God to forgive them!

God was most angry with the serpent. God cursed him and said, "On thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life." God told Eve that she should have great pain and sorrow, and she was to be subject to her husband. God told Adam that the ground was cursed for his sake,

and would bring forth thorns and thistles. He said to Adam, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return to the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

God would not let Adam and Eve stay in the pleasant garden; He drove them out. But God felt very sorry for Adam and Eve. Though He hated sin, yet He loved them. He gave them a promise that there should be born a Saviour who would destroy the works of that old serpent, Satan, and take those who believe in Him to heaven, a far more beautiful place than the garden of Eden.

Man was at first made holy and happy like God ; but man sinned. Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean ? Not one. We who are descended from Adam have his sinful nature. Even very young children show this, for sometimes they try to strike their parents.

Hell is the punishment due to sin. Is there any way of escape ? Yes. God, in His great love, sent His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, into this world to obey perfectly His holy laws and to die for sinners. God now offers salvation to all who believe in Jesus Christ. For the sake of Jesus,

their sins are forgiven, and they are considered righteous. God sends his Holy Spirit into their hearts to purify them, and fit them for heaven. "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

You can learn more about the way of salvation in the Bible, the true Veda, and in other books like this. Read them with prayer to God to lead you in the right way.

