

## The Snow Queen and The Golden Compass

"The Snow Queen" is a very delightful fairy tale written by Hans Christian Anderson. The author has wrapped the tale of redemption and love in a loveable fairy tale. The story is about two little children Kay and Gerda who love each other dearly and live next door. They sit by the roses and keep talking till their mothers called. The children stand for everything pure and innocent. One day they went out to the city lake to play. It was winter and the lake was fully frozen.

There was a very evil person who wanted to destroy the peace of the perfect world. He made a mirror which distorted the beauty of this world. Beautiful looked ugly in the mirror. Straight looked queer. One day the mirror slipped and fell and broke into millions of pieces. The pieces of mirror then entered into the heart of human beings, who immediately became evil and hideous. The innocence was lost. Sin entered.

One evening Kay and Gerda went to play and unknowingly the dust of the mirror entered into the heart of Kay. The next morning when they met, Kay was very rough. His heart had become evil. He destroyed the roses they loved dearly and slapped Gerda and later went to play alone. Gerda wept bitterly for the unnatural change. She was waiting for Kay to come.

Kay meanwhile went to the frozen lake and he was fascinated by a strange sledge with a beautiful woman. Little knowing that she is the Snow Queen who enslaves little boys, he hitched his sledge with hers. She drove on with Kay behind her into the extremes of North Pole. When Kay did not come home for more than a week, everyone thought he must have fallen into the river and died. But Gerda wouldn't believe it.

She decided to search for dear Kay. She set out on a long lonely journey. On the way she meets a witch, a crow, a robber's family and after many many months she finally reaches the palace of the wicked Snow Queen who enslaves little boys and kills little girls. Kay had been kissed by the Snow Queen which had completely frozen his heart.

Now Gerda enters the palace and with great joy she runs towards Kay. But sadly Kay does not recognize her. Poor Gerda starts weeping bitterly. Her long journey somehow seemed fruitless. Drip drop, her tears fell on Kay's heart. Her warm tears slowly melted the frozen heart of Kay and not only that, the evil dust which had got into his heart also came out. Kay instantly became a sweet little boy. They embraced each other and with a prayer in their heart, hand in hand walked out of the palace and reached home.

They are now grown up, and they are delighted to see that it is summertime. At the end, the grandmother reads a passage from the Bible:

"Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3).

The story has obvious parallel to the heart becoming infected by sin and becoming dead in trespasses. It is only the Blood of Jesus, here symbolized by Gerda's tears, has transformed out dead cold heart, to a heart of flesh and life again.

Some months ago I watched the movie "The Golden Compass." When I saw the movie it struck me that this movie is actually the upside down version of the above story.

It is also about children. In this movie, the soul of the children is outside of them in the form of an animal, which is called as the

demon. Then there is a powerful woman who wants to cut away the animal from the children and she is the villain. Somehow she is at her worst and the setting in which she is portrayed has an uncanny resemblance to an established religious order, something like a church setting. So the fight between the good(to protect the animal which is the child's soul) and the bad(the woman who wants to get rid of the children's demon) is what the whole movie is about. During the fight, a horde of witches fight for the children's right to have their demon. The witches are good and they join the children to fight for their legitimate right to own their demon. As I understood, the movie tried to project that we are all not born innocent, but with an animal tied to our soul. It is actually religion and established ideologies which makes us aware of the ugliness of our demons and tries to deliver us. So religion makes us feel guilty. This movie celebrates the personal demon which becomes the "good," of the soul. In other words sin is not cast out, but accepted and celebrated. Scary isn't it. Subtly we are led to accept the sin, our demon and celebrate it as good.

See the kind of times we live in.

**Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who** put darkness for light and light for darkness, **who** put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Isaiah 5 : 19-21

Let us discern in these last days, the eternal worth of the Word of God and teach our children what is good and what is evil in the sure light of God's word alone.

May God fill us with His own wisdom.