

## **Fairytale Introduction**

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What are Fairytales? Folktales? Way back when humanity was young and childlike they were orally told tales by the wise elders of the folk, the tribe, teaching tales, utterly unintellectual and purely imaginative and poetic appealing to the folk's soul and spirit. Parable-like they educated the people to live life in a good and creative manner in service to the whole. Today they still remain an essential part of the growing child's development. The patterns and morality inherent in them profoundly affect the growing child's mind and soul in a very positive manner. The stories provide suitable role models—Princes Princesses Fairy Godmothers and the like as well as stimulating moral discernment between good and evil, riches and poverty, kindness and greed, hero and villain. The tales contain deep archetypal meanings, imaginative and spiritually true meanings lost today by the brain bound intellectualism of our modern oh so clever scientific materialism and relegated to the realm of mere fantasy as opposed to obviously verifiable scientific proofs. The latter however have no positive effect on the growing child soul and spirit development. The child's essence, its being, as with those who have succeeded in remaining childlike in soul and can thus enter the kingdom of heaven, know they are not dealing with everyday mundane realities. They know that the tales are metaphors, are archetypes applicable to humanity as a whole. Modern parents often think they are misleading and untrue sadly to the cost of the child and think they are a waste of time. Film too has actually done harm to our soul development but that is another theme not to dealt with here. Just a brief mention of the name Disney might suffice. What are these fantastic beasts these elemental beings these fairies these witches these animals that speak, these Kings and queens these tailors these huntsmen, these wicked stepmothers, what are they but metaphors of human nature.

### **Quote:**

- 1) If you want your children to be intelligent read them fairytales. If you want them to be even more intelligent read them more fairytales ... Albert Einstein**

- 2) Myths and fairytales give imaginative visible expression to unseen unconscious processes, the collective unconscious, and the retelling of them brings these processes to light and life. They resonate with fundamental aspects of human experience in a simple and pure manner un- bound by the intellect, by the brain..... Karl Jung**
- 3) Tasting food is a conscious experience whereas that which turns this tasty food into nourishment occurs in the digestive metabolism and is unconscious unless something goes terribly wrong. In this manner the experience of the fairytale continues to work within and nourishes the soul as food does the body in ways unknown to the conscious mind. .... R Steiner**

As said before the tales are powerful tools for grasping and experiencing all manner of human emotions, morality and even social structures, and this in a universal nonpersonal manner. One experiences vividly the battle between good and evil and witness the consequences of one's actions one way or another. A kind of instant Karma. Hope patience and resilience are also developed, and the child EQ is greatly enhanced as is the power of thinking imaginatively and critically. Positive values such as kindness, courage, honesty etc. are instilled as opposed to destructive negative ones, as well as the consequences arising from both. These as said before in a simple parable like manner. Right from wrong are clearly delineated.

Emotional growth is also developed in a safe symbolic manner when dealing with difficult negative emotions like hatred fear grief anger making them easier to deal with in real life. Also sibling rivalry separation abandonment death and other such anxieties are healthily dealt with.

Cultural learning and interpersonal relationships are also addressed, broadening the mind giving rise to empathic compassion and the understanding of other cultures and human beings

The tales fall into broadly 2 categories, Tales of Wonder which deal with the hero's journey and the encountering of the supernatural and

elemental, giving rise to awe and wonder and Moral tales which as said before deal with good vs evil and the like.

**A healthy imagination and a wide experiential empathic imagination lead to health in body soul and Spirit. Fairy tales serve this**

They lay the path for a warm imaginative synthesizing living thinking, a **Heart Thinking** as opposed to a cold dry analytic and destructive intellect, a head bound intellect. It unites thinking with willing via an active feeling life which leads to freedom and the intuitive moral free deed (see the Philosophy of Spiritual Activity-Freedom- R S )

This heart thinking enables one, via picture creating speech, to leave the limits of the deadening abstraction of brain- boundedness and to drink from the fount of life, the story, which the fairytale allows to happen. (See Capesius in Steiner's Mystery dramas and his visit to Frau Felicia Balde)

Through these tales of wonder and morality, of awe devotion courage hope, of love for the good, we develop and grow more truly human. This provides us with nourishing strength for life, as does, hopefully good, food for the body as mentioned before. It arms us to meet life challenges and positively deal with them. Life becomes Fairytale like, dreamlike, yet still very real. We have a happily ever after ending if we meet the challenges in the right manner and overcome them. It is this positivity, which is sorely needed in these troubling times, or as the Chinese say *interesting times*, “**when wrong comes up to face us everywhere never to leave us till we take the longest stride of soul men ever took. Affairs are now soul-size**”. Yes, the enterprise is indeed and exploration into the soul and spirit, **an exploration into God**, that good may become what we from our hearts would found and from our head would direct with single purpose, forging the future, in the present, out of the experiential depths of the **long long ago, the once upon a time!** I and the world unite in love and understanding in service to the whole, as was the intention in times long ago when the stories had their oral origin. The “percept” becomes “living concept” you wed your

Prince, your Princess, your King, and in this marriage Love and Wisdom unite giving strength to transform.

To conclude the fairytale has something to offer all ages young and old satisfying the souls hunger and thirst. This suprasensible nourishment then flows through our spirit and soul veins enlivening us all.

**It is like a good Angel given to us at birth and accompanying us through the trials and tribulations of life as a trusted friend and wise companion nourishing our spirit our heart and soul (and body) .. Life thus becomes a FAIRYTALE!**

**Yea so may it be !**

