

Zsafia Gyemant:

The magic words

Once upon a time there was a town called Heartland. It was not an unusual place- it was the home of Hearts.

In Heartland everything looks like a heart. There is a heart- shaped lake in the middle of the town. Trees and flowers also look like hearts. Houses resembles hearts, too. The Hearts who live in these houses can be very different.

There are Chocolate Hearts who live in bonbon boxes and wear paper on themselves. There are Balloon Hearts who are colourful and fly on the air from morning till night. There are Heart-shaped pillows who can be made of cotton, silk, denim or filled with feather. There are also Perfume Bottle Hearts who smells like spring flowers or fresh fruit. And there is another Heart in the town: Heartie. He is the only Mirror Heart and he liked showing the Hearts what they look like. But one day he had to show more than external things... Because he realized that the Hearts do not behave as they should. Unfortunately they preferred being abominable and arrogant than nice and kind. They were arguing and priding themselves all the time. If a Heart met one of another type of Hearts they just talked about who is better. Chocolate Hearts thought they are the best because they are sweet and live in a bonbon box. Balloon Hearts did not agree because they could fly and were colourful. The Pillow Hearts just laughed at it and said: „– Oh, how could you be the best? You are not soft at all!” Then the Parfume Bottle Hearts had to answer: „–It is nothing... None of you smells like spring flowers or fresh fruit...” And they just kept on quarrelling, quarrelling and quarrelling.

Only Heartie did not take part in these arguments. He always became sad and disappointed when he heard these discussions. Once the glass became full. When the Hearts started to talk about their favourite „ who is the best” theme he cried out: „ Enough! I will go and look for a place where I can find silence and peace. I am bored with listening to your arguments...”

The Hearts were shocked. They stopped quarrelling and could not say a word. They could never imagine leaving Heartland and looking for another place. They did not know any other town. But Heartie was sure in his decision so left the town.

He walked a lot from morning till night, from north to south, from east to west. He swam in lakes, rivers and seas, walked through hills and mountains, went past woods and fields.

One day he arrived to a town which was called Shapefield. It was really different from Heartland. There did not live any Hearts because it was the home of Shapes. Heartie saw Rectangles, Triangles, Squares and Circles in every colour and size. But not just their extern was much more different from the Hearts's but their behaviour. Firstly they did not pride themselves preferably wrote up each other. If they did not agree in something they talked about it but did not start arguing just tried to solve the problems. They did lots of things together and always helped each other. They paid attention to everybody and their environment, too. They sprinkled the flowers planted trees and cleaned the streets. It was good fun for them: they spent time together and made their home nicer and nicer. It had great results: Every Shape was happy, balanced and pleased.

Heartie was really interested in that how they had been able to do it so he asked them. „ – Oh, that is easy. We just use some magic words.” –answered a Triangle. „- Can you conjure?” – asked Heartie surprisedly. „- No, no we are not magicians!”- laughed the Triangle. „ – These words are just for reminding us for some important guidelines.”- continued a Square. „- It sounds fantastic!”- said the Mirror Heart enthusiastically. „- Oh, I wished the Hearts could be as happy as you!”- suspired he. „ –What shall I do to help them to find this way of kindness?” „- You should talk with them honestly. You should tell them what you saw at us and we wil also go with you to help them.”- promised a Circle. „- Really! It would be great! Thank you very much!”- answered Heartie. „- You are welcome. We are happy if we can help. Then, come on!” –smiled a Triangle and they set off.

They walked from morning till night, from south to north, from west to east. They swam in seas, rivers and lakes, walked through mountains and hills, went past fields and woods.

After many- many days they arrived to Heartland. Every Heart was incredibly glad to see Heartie again. They really missed him and felt sorry for the arguement. And they were quite interested in the guests because they had never seen such special persons that the Shapes before. So the Mirror Heart started to tell what he had seen in Shapefield. Every Heart listened to him carefully with round eyes and opened mouths. At the end of his story he also said another thing: „ In the past I only showed you the reflexion of yourselves through myself. Now I would like you to look in the best mirror. „ -But... You are the only mirror we know! You must be the best! Or you might...”- interjected a Chocolate Heart. But Heartie continued: „- No. I do not think of a simple mirror like me. I think of eyes... And I dream about incredibly happy Hearts. I would like you to

look in each other's eyes. It is the only place where you can see yourselves and each other perfectly. Then you will be able to live as the Shapes" „- We can see your point. And we would like to change. But it might be quite difficult... How shall we start it?"- asked a Balloon Heart. „- Do not worry. We have the solution for it!"- said a Square. „ – You know we have some magic words: LOVE, PEACE, RESPECT, TOLERANCE AND HOPE. Firstly we should love each other. That is the basic of happiness and harmony. Nobody can feel well between selfishness and jealousy... Secondly if we love others we will be able to accept them and they will do the same with us. It causes harmony which we would be able to outspread also for our environment. It means that we respect others, ourselves and our world. Then it leads to peace. But we need another thing yet which helps us to implement LOVE, PEACE, RESPECT AND TOLERANCE. That is HOPE. It helps us to converge the other four words and us, too." – The Shape stopped talking and looked around. Everybody was silent. But suddenly a Heart stood up and said: „- Then what are we waiting for? Come on! We can do it!"- So they did. Every Heart joined and they changed their bad habits. They followed the advices of the Shapes and gave up arguing. They started to pay more attention each other and discovered that it is good fun to make their environment nicer and nicer. So they started to be happier, more balanced and more satisfied.

After a while others from other towns started to ask for their advice and they were happy if they could help together with their friends the Shapes.

It was not accidental that after some time others started to encourage each other before changing like that:

„ -It is not hard to be as great as a Shape!" „ – It is not so hard to behave as a Heart!"

If you make more and more people happier and happier, you have taken the first step to make the Earth a little better place. Then more and more...