

The Mirror

There was a little village, very remote. Not too many people used to go there. People in this village were very, very simple. They did what they had to do.

One day, a tourist arrived in this village. In the morning he took out his mirror and put it up on a wall so he could shave. After he shaved, he forgot the mirror on the wall.

Then an elder person in the village who had grey hair and bright eyes came across the mirror, and he looked at it. He had never seen himself. When he saw this mirror, he was mesmerised. And he said, 'Today, I have seen the face of God.' He left very happy.

Then came a beautiful young girl. When she saw herself in the mirror, she was taken aback. 'I have just seen the most beautiful woman on earth, and when I grow up, this is what I want to look like.'

Then came along a man who had lost his father not too long ago, and he looked in the mirror and said, 'I saw my father again!' And he took the mirror with him.

Now, these three people got very upset and started to argue. The older man wanted the mirror because he had seen the face of his God. The young girl wanted the mirror because this is what she wanted to look like. And the other man also wanted the mirror because he had seen his father in it.

Before you knew it, arguments and fights broke out throughout the whole village, and everybody was unhappy. Whoever looked in the mirror liked what they saw and they all wanted the mirror for themselves.

Finally, a wise man came by, and seeing this, he asked, 'Why are you fighting?'

They said: 'Well, I want this thing because this is my God.' 'This is who I want to be.' 'This is my father.' This is my this, my that.

So he asked to see this magical thing. After looking at it, he called everyone together. And he said, 'Do you know what this is? This is a mirror. What you see in this mirror, what you like in this mirror, is not the mirror. This is just a reflection. What you see is you!'