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The HAPPY PRINCE

ORIGINAL STORY BY
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A purple-toned illustration of a city at night. In the foreground, a tall, ornate stone column stands on a brick base, topped with a statue of a prince in a long, patterned robe and a crown, holding a sword. The prince is the Happy Prince. Below the column, a cityscape is visible with various buildings, including a church with a tall spire. Smoke rises from several chimneys. The sky is dark purple with white stars and a few birds flying. The text is written in a serif font, with the first letter 'H' being very large and spanning across the text.

High above the city,
on a tall column,
stood the statue
of the Happy Prince. He was
gilded all over with thin
leaves of fine gold, for eyes
he had two bright sapphires,
and a large red ruby glowed
on his sword hilt.

He was very much admired indeed.

*He is as
beautiful as a
weather vane,*

remarked one of the
Town Councillors who
wished to gain a reputation
for having artistic tastes;

*...only not quite
so useful,*

he added, fearing lest
people should think him
unpractical, which he really
was not.

‘Why can’t you be like the Happy Prince?’
asked a sensible mother of her little boy,
who was crying for the moon. ‘The Happy
Prince never dreams of crying for anything.’

*I am glad there is
someone in the world
who is quite happy,*

muttered a
disappointed man
as he gazed at the
wonderful statue.



‘He looks just like an angel,’ said the Charity Children as they came out of the cathedral in their bright scarlet cloaks and their clean white pinafores.

‘How do you know?’ said the Mathematical Master. ‘You have never seen one.’

*Ah! But we
have, in our
dreams,*

answered the children;
and the Mathematical
Master frowned and looked
very severe, for he
did not approve of
children dreaming.



One night there came to the city
a little boy, called Swallow.

‘Where shall I rest?’ he said.
‘I hope the town has made
preparations.’

Then he saw the statue on the
tall column.

‘I will rest there,’ he cried,
‘it is a fine position, with
plenty of fresh air.’
So he climbed up
and settled just
between the
feet of the
Happy
Prince.

