

kings. I will be the strongest ship in the world.”

The third little tree looked down into the valley below where busy men and busy woman worked in a busy town. “I want to grow so tall that when people stop to looked at me they will raise their eyes to heaven and think of God. I will be the tallest tree in the world.”

#### **YEARS PASSED.....**

The rains came, the sun shone, and the little trees grew tall.

One day 3 woodcutters claimed the mountain. The first woodcutter looked at the first tree and said, “This tree is beautiful. It is perfect for me.” With a swoon of his shining axe, the first tree fell.”

“Now I shall be made into a beautiful chest,” thought the first tree, “I shall hold wonderful treasure.”

The second woodcutter looked the tree and said, “The tree is strong. It is perfect for me.” With a swoon of his shining axe, the second tree fell.

“Now I shall sail mighty waters,” thought the second tree. “I shall be a strong ship fit for kings!”

The third tree felt in her heart sink when the last woodcutter looked her way. She stood straight and tall and pointed bravely to heaven.

But the woodcutter never looked up. Any kind of tree will do for me”, he muttered. With a swoon of his chining axe, the third tree fell.

The trees rejoiced when the woodcutter brought him to a carpenter’s shop, but the busy carpenter was not thinking about treasure chest. Instead his work worn hands fashioned the tree in to a feed box for animals.

The once-beautiful tree was not covered with gold or filled with treasure. He was coated with a sawdust and filled hay for hungry farm animals.

The second tree smiled when the woodcutter took him to a shipyard but no mighty sailing ship were being made that day. Instead the once strong tree

was hammed and sawed into a simple fishing boat.

Too small and too weak to sail on ocean or even a river, he was taken to a little lake. Every day he brought in load of dead and smelly fishes.

The third tree was confused when the woodcutter cut her into strong beams and left her in a lumberyard.

“What happed”? the once tall tree wondered. “All I ever wanted to do was stay on the mountain and point to sky.

#### **YEARS PASSED .....**

Many days and nights passed. The three tress nearly forgot their dreams.

But one night golden starlight poured over the first tree as a young woman placed her babe in the feed box.

“I wish I could make a cradle for him,” her husband whispered. The mother squeezed and his hand and smiled as the straight shone on the smooth and

sturdy wood. “The manger is beautiful” she said.

And suddenly the first tree knew that he was holding the greatest treasure in the world.

On evening a tired traveler and his friends crowded in to the old fishing boat. The traveler fell a sleep on the second tree quietly and sailed in to the lake.

Soon s thundering and thrashing storm arose. The little tree shuddered. He knew he did not have the strength to carry so many passengers safely through the winds and rains.

The tired man awakened. He stood up, stretched out His hand, and said, “Peace”. The storm stopped as quickly as it had begun.

And suddenly the second tree knew he was carrying the King of Heaven and Earth.

One Friday morning the third tree was startled when her beams were yanked from the forgotten wood pile. She

flinched as she was carried through an angry, jeering crowd. She shuddered when solders nailed a man’s hands and feet to her. She felt ugly and harsh and cruel.

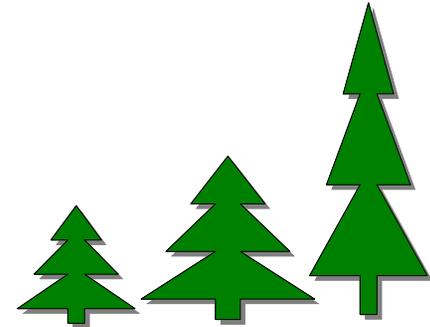
But on Sunday morning, when the sun arose and the earth trembled with joy beneath her, the third tree knew that God’s love had changed everything.

It had made the first tree a beautiful

It has made the second tree strong.

And every tie people thought of the third tree, they would think of God and Heaven. That was better than being tallest tree in the world.

## THE TALE OF THREE TREES<sup>1</sup>



Once upon a mountain top 3 little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to be come when they grow up.

The first little tree looked up at the stars twinkling like diamonds above him. “ I wanted to hold treasures” he said “ I wish to be covered with a gold and filled with precious stones. I will be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world.”

The second little tree looked out at the small stream trickling by on its way to the ocean. “ I want to be a Strong sailing ship” he said. “ I want to travel mighty waters and carry powerful

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<sup>1</sup> Source unknown

