

Why Angels Are Happy



Conjugal Love 11 – 25

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Over two hundred years ago there lived a man named Emanuel Swedenborg. The Lord chose Swedenborg to do important work for Him. He allowed Swedenborg to see things in heaven with his spiritual eyes. The Lord helped Swedenborg so that he could teach people about Him and the meaning of His Word.



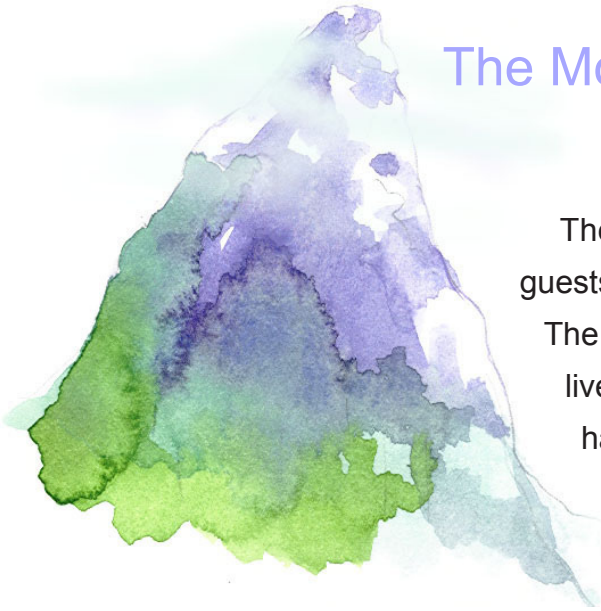
Once, Swedenborg saw an angel flying with a trumpet. The angel was wearing a robe, which flowed behind him. He wore a belt of rubies and blue sapphires that seemed to flame and shine.

Swedenborg asked the angel what he was doing, and the angel answered him, "I have come to call wise people together to show them why people in heaven are happy."

Then many people came together. The most famous and wisest teachers all talked about what they thought heaven was like.

They said, "When people die, they get ready to go to heaven or hell. The good people get ready for heaven, and the evil people get ready for hell. Good people become beautiful, but evil people become ugly. Good people want to live in heaven with other good people, but the evil people don't want to live in heaven. They wouldn't be happy there."

The Mountain of the Prince



The angel guide chose ten of the people. These guests would learn why angels are happy in heaven. The angel took them up a tall mountain where a prince lived. The angel guide told the prince that the visitors had come to learn.

The prince said, “Tell them that I welcome them. Lead them to their own rooms and bring angels to help them.”

It was morning and the guests heard the sweetest songs. The young women and girls were singing from their homes, and the whole city was filled with their lovely music. As they sang, it was as if the songs were made of love, and when the other angels heard the songs they felt the love. The guests thought that maybe these songs were what made the angels happy.



When the singing was finished, the guests saw everyone go to work in their homes and in the other buildings. All the angels in heaven have a special job that the Lord gives them.



The Palace

The angel guide took the ten guests and Swedenborg to see the prince's beautiful palace. They saw that it was large and built from a dark purplish stone, with a foundation of jasper. In front of the door there were six tall columns of lapis lazuli, a precious blue stone. The roof was made of sheets of gold. There were high windows of clear crystals with gold frames.

When they went inside the palace they saw beautiful decorations. There were tables made of silver mixed with gold. And there were many other treasures made of precious stones and gems.

The angel guide said, "The Lord, the Creator of the universe, made all of these things. The Lord gave them to our prince as a present."

Then the angel guide said, "You might think that it is these beautiful things that make us happy in heaven. We do like them, because they remind us of the Lord's great power and mercy, but they are not what makes us happy."



The Garden

After they had looked at the palace, the angel guide said, "It's not quite lunchtime yet. Let us go look at the prince's garden." When they got to the garden, the angel guide said, "Look at the beautiful garden!"

But the guests said, "What are you talking about? There is no garden here. We see just one tree, with fruit like gold on the branches and on the top are leaves like silver with emeralds around the edges. There are children under the tree with people taking care of them."



The angel was excited and said, “This tree is in the middle of the garden. Some people call it the Tree of Life. But get closer and your eyes will be opened, and you will see the garden.”

As they went closer, their eyes were opened, and then they saw the garden! They saw trees filled with delicious fruit and wrapped in vines. All of the treetops were bending toward the Tree of Life. There was a light that made them all shine brightly.

There were chairs between some of the trees. They were made with intertwining branches and decorated with fruit. There were also gates between the trees that led to beautiful flower gardens and green lawns.

When the ten guests saw all these wonderful things, they said, “This looks just like heaven! Everything is so very beautiful! The angels here must be so happy.”

The angel guide said, “These gardens only look beautiful to people who love the Lord and are good to other people. Loving the Lord and being good to other people makes us happy.





Special Clothes

Then a messenger came to tell the guests that the prince was ready to eat lunch with them. Two servants came with the messenger, carrying white linen clothes. The servants said, "Put these on. No one is allowed at the table of the prince unless he is wearing the clothes of heaven." So the ten guests got dressed in the clothes of heaven and went with their angel guide.

They were led to a courtyard outside the palace where they waited for the prince.

The big doors of the palace were opened, and the prince came through them. In front of him were all the angels who worked with him and helped him to do his job. There were so many angels that it looked like a parade!

The prince was wearing a long red robe embroidered with silvery stars. He wore a shining, light blue silk shirt under his robe. At the top of the prince's shirt was a shining gold medallion in a circle of diamonds. The medallion showed an eagle brooding over her babies in the top of a tree. It was the symbol of his town.

Lunch with the Prince

The angel guide introduced the ten guests and Swedenborg to the prince. The prince said, "Come and eat lunch with me!"

They followed him into the dining room and saw a table with special dishes and fancy decorations. In the middle of the table was a high pyramid of gold with a hundred saucers in rows all over it. On the saucers there were sweet cakes and other delicious things made from bread and wine.



Up through the middle of the gold pyramid wine bubbled like a fountain and fell down the sides of the pyramid into cups. The cups were made of jewels. Around the pyramid, there were gold statues holding silver dishes and plates filled with wonderful food. They were so beautiful that no one in this world could have made them.

The prince told them, "Each of you can take a plate from one of the statues and a dish from the pyramid." So they took them, and right away new plates and dishes appeared in their places! Their cups were filled with wine from the fountain springing up out of the large pyramid. It was so wonderful that the guests wondered if these feasts were what made the angels happy.



The Prince's Message

After the guests had finished eating, the prince said to them, "I heard that you came to find out what makes angels happy. And I have heard that you have asked if the sights in the beautiful palace, or the wonderful smells of the garden, or the beautiful voices of the young women and girls, or the delicious food we are serving today are what make us happy. But those things are not what make us happy. Those things are there because we are already happy."

"Being happy comes from your heart. And what makes our hearts happy is loving the Lord and loving the people around us. Also, doing good things for other people makes us happy. That's why angels work at different jobs in heaven. When our hearts are happy, everything around us looks wonderful, smells wonderful, sounds wonderful and tastes wonderful!"





Going Home

The ten guests stayed in heaven for two more days, learning more about the angels' happiness. They learned about how angels live—they are married, live in homes and worship the Lord like people do on earth.

Then the angel guide told the guests it was time to leave. "It is time to take off the clothes the prince gave you and put on your own clothes ." When they had put their own clothes on, the guests wanted to go home. So they left and went back down the mountain. When the ten guests got back to the place where they had first gathered, they gave thanks to the Lord for letting them go to the beautiful city on the mountain in heaven. They were also thankful that they had seen so many amazing things there. They had learned that angels in heaven are happy because they love the Lord and other people. Angels are happy because they are good!