

arose next morning he would be able to see the strange city; he thought that perhaps in the sudden twilight which followed the setting of the sun it was impossible to see the city spires, and he thus tried to buoy up hope in his sister, but she discouraged him.

"No, brother, no, brother, we were deceived, punished because we thought more of a strange city than our own home, our Father's city. We turned our backs on home, and what we saw was but the image of a home, not an abiding city; and now we have nothing left us but to lie down and die."

Twilight soon gave place to night, and locked in each other's arms brother and sister fell fast asleep.

When they awoke the sun had risen some time. As soon as the girl was fully awake she implored her brother to try and retrace his steps homewards.

"Promise me, brother, you will not be lured by any false homes, however bright or near they may seem to be. See, yesterday's false city is gone. Ah me, not even our own city in sight. Let us go as straight to our father's home as we can. Perhaps we may find some one who can show us the way; and who knows, our father, as soon as he sees us coming home, may meet us half way."

Standing up, her brother took his sister's hand and promised to make for home.

Alas, which way were they to turn? The desert plains stretched out on every side of them. There was nothing to guide them. They could not even see a road or a path.

The two wanderers set forth on their long journey home. Many a time they felt inclined to sit down and give up the struggle, but the recollection of what they had lost urged them forward.

At last they came on a road, which evidently was much travelled. They decided to sit down and wait a little, in case they should see any one passing, from whom they might ask their way.

After waiting a while, the boy espied some one at a distance. "Let us go towards that traveller," said he in his eagerness. When they reached the traveller the lad asked him:

"Sir, which is the way to my Father's palace?"

"And who is your father my lad?"

"My father, Sir, is the king."

"I know of no king" said the traveller, "but the Sun he rules the universe."

The lad was too indignant to reply.

"Good Sir," said his sister, "we left our homes yesterday morning, and so it cannot be very far below this wide desert; we know not which way to turn."

"Follow the Sun, the ruler of nature as I do, and you will find your way home." And with that the traveller went on his way.

The wandering pair followed him, but being tired they could not walk very fast and so they soon fell behind him, and when they tried to follow the Sun, somehow they travelled but in a circle, and got no further on.

By and by they came across quite a troop of persons.

"Now we shall know," said the boy.

"Some one out of the many will tell us," hoped the girl.

Advancing to the man who seemed to be the guide of the troop, the boy boldly stepped forward.

"Sir, I and my sister have strayed from our father's home."

"Listen to the lad, he claims a father."

And the guide turned round to those following him, who all laughed aloud.

"Sir, my father will reward you handsomely if you direct us right."

At which they all laughed louder.

"Poor lad, what ignorance!" said one.

"How shocking!" said another,

"How hard delusions die!" said a third.

"My dear children," said the guide, "you have no father, no one has a father, we all made ourselves. Put your foolish ideas out of your head and join us."

The pair drew aside to let the laughing crowd pass by. The dust it made in passing had scarcely subsided when another throng of people came along. With less confidence the lad stepped forward and asked his way.

"You ask your way to your father's palace," said the leader; "you forget you have many fathers; which father do you mean?"

"I have but one father. It is very strange that while I know I am not far from my father's home, no one seems to have seen it or known it," said the lad despondently.

"Come with us, you will find a father every where!"

But the girl clung closer to her brother, who shook his head and the crowd passed on.

"Oh, I am so thirsty!" said the girl.

"See here are plenty of people on the plains to-day; there are some journeying over there, we will ask them for water even if they cannot tell us the way home."

(To be continued.)