

*For Anastasia and Her Dear Grandmother
Who Crossed the Threshold at Advent*

Once upon a time not very long ago
A dear little family loved each other so,
They created a wish that went traveling far
Until at last it went up to the stars.

In the heavens the star children worked all day on matters of great importance. When they had worked very hard, they were given the gift of beautiful music - so beautiful that it brought great joy to their hearts. Sometimes, when they were not working or listening to the music, they were able to play heavenly games like Catch a Falling Star or Chase a Comet's Tail.

One day a star child went running so fast
She came to the edge of the heavens at last
And when she gazed down to the Earth below
That wish wrapped around her and started to grow.
She went straight to her angel and said, with a vow
"I must go to the Earth to begin my work now."
For when she'd looked down, she'd seen the same
dear little family from whom the wish came.

The star child was delighted by the amazing sight she saw, for there waiting for her were a mother and a father and brother and sister and other loving family and friends. When she went to her angel, her angel looked at her and looked at her and finally said, "But dear one, you still have much work to do here in the heavens." The little star child said, "Oh, please, may I go, if only for a little while. I won't stay long, and perhaps I will bring someone special back with me."

The angels gathered together to consider the special request of the little star child and, at last, decided to grant her her wish.

Then all of the heavenly angels did sing
And the guardian angel said, "Here, I'll take your wings.
I'll keep them here safely until you return.
Now, go to the Earth and learn all you can learn."

Then all the star children gathered quite near
To say "good-bye" to their friend so dear
And as she climbed down from Heaven's high ridge,
She started across the rainbow bridge.

Now, on her journey, the star child saw the most wondrous sight, for there before her she could see a radiant being who was gathering light from the sun, moon and stars and tucking the light into her beautiful blue cloak as she went along. It was the mother of the Child of Light, the Christ Child, who every year made her journey through the heavens down to the earth to weave a garment of light for her Son. Also tucked into her cloak and all about her were many star children who were coming to the Earth as well so that they could come to know this special Son.

“Oh,” thought the littlest star child, “How I would love to be wrapped in that mantle of blue some day when I journey back to the heavens,” for such was the case that every year the Lady also allowed some children to journey back with her upon her return. Then the littlest star child closed her eyes and fell into a dream of such a time when that could happen.

And when she awoke, another amazing sight was there before her. She had come all the way across the rainbow bridge and was, now in the home of the dear little family she had seen from the heavens. How happy they all were that she had come.

In time, the little child grew from a baby to a toddler to a lovely little girl who loved to laugh and play. Her family loved her dearly, and her grandmother sometimes cared for her when the others had to be away. Soon it was that special time of year again when many star children come near the Earth waiting for their time to be born while others prepare for their return wrapped in the mantle of blue. The little girl could dimly remember the splendor of the heavens and, without even knowing it, yearned for the sounds of the joyful music.

The angels called to the little girl that the time had come for her return. Her grandmother, who loved her dearly, carried her up to the heavens where the radiant Mother wrapped them both in her mantle of blue, and they were clothed in the light of the sun, moon and stars. Though they were sad to leave behind their family and friends, they knew that they would all be together again one day. And in the heavens, there was great rejoicing.