
A Letter From Dream-Children (Concluded).

"What joy it will be for all of us when we look up into your face with dawning recognition and give you our first warm moist kiss! It will be fun too having you teach us to talk and take our first stumbling steps. When we grow older and go to school we will let you help us with our lessons, and not blame you when the sums are wrong. You can teach us all you know about God and this wonderful world. And we want you to know that we regard it as a greater career to introduce your own babies to the universe than to teach other people's children the A, B, C's. In fact, we dare to say that we are of greater importance and much more interesting than the best-seller which a career woman can produce-- for we are flesh and blood and built for eternity. Every day we shall grow more like you and be able to help you more and more. Then, since you will be the best mother and father in the world, how proud we will be to hear people say, "What a lovely child-- just like his mother and father."

In later years you will live your youth with us again. We will bring our friends to the house and dance away the evening hours, with you as an always-welcome member of the party. And just think of that memorable day when we shall proudly give you the first money we have earned and boast that we will buy you all good things when our dream-ship comes sailing home in the not-so-distant future! When you begin to age and when the strain and worry of our early years is lightened-- after all, we will not be angels-- our youthful strength will support and console you. If you need us we will work, work, work to repay in some little way the debt of gratitude we owe you. Perhaps only on special occasions will we say formally, "Thank you for the life you have given us," yet that will be our constant thought. You will have made us candidates for eternity. Can we be otherwise than grateful?

We believe now, dear dream-parents, that you really want us. But perhaps this unselfish thought occurs to you and makes you pause. "Will it be really worthwhile or even fair to bring a child into the world when we cannot offer it every advantage in upbringing, when it may be born into poverty? Isn't that an injustice?" We dream-children are unanimous in our answer and we protest, "NO!" To show you how we feel let us put a question to you. "Suppose that before you came into this world you were given the choice of remaining among the unborn or of embarking on the adventure of life, with a chance for Heaven at its conclusion. It was understood, however, that if you chose life you must expect to live in a simpler way than those around you, perhaps even in poverty. What would be your choice?" Now, dear dream-parents, unless you are cynical, and we know that you are not, you would have chosen life. That's just the way we dream-children feel about it too. After all, smart clothes, the best education, and comforts do not give life its real value. Only give us life and we will gladly take all the hardships that go with it.

Now there is just one more question on which we dream-children feel very strongly. There are a good number of us here in dreamland who would have been the third, fourth, or fifth addition to a family, but we have never arrived. We realize, of course, that you can support only so many of us. But we would like to tell you that most of us prefer to live in a large family, and knowing our preference you may be persuaded to find room for another one of us. It's much more fun to have brothers and sisters with whom you can play and squabble. Ask an only child if this is not so. We believe too that the give and take of a large family is a much better training for life and character than that which schools can provide. Then from your point of view, dear parents, when the oldest in a large family leaves there are still others to help and carry on. It will be long years before your home ceases to echo to our laughter and we all leave your side.

In closing let us plead with you just once again. You alone can give us life. Will you?

Lovingly and longingly yours, YOUR DREAM-CHILDREN.