



A Pony

IN THE HOUSE

Star was a brown Shetland pony with a long white mane and tail. Right in the middle of his forehead was a spot of white that looked like a star, and that is how he got his name.

Star lived on a farm with lots of bigger horses, until one day a family called the Trumaines bought Star and took him to their house. They built a nice stable for Star that was just

big enough for one pony. The Trumaine children—Elly, Sue, and their little brother Stu—soon loved Star. They fed him and brushed him. To them Star was the best pony in the whole world. Soon Star loved them too, because of all the loving care they gave him.

Elly and Sue worked patiently with Star and trained him to do different tricks. They could make Star kneel on his front knees like he was taking a bow. They trained him to rear up on his hind legs and remain standing on his two hind feet. They could even stand on his back, balancing while he slowly walked.

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**Messages
of God's Love**



Sometimes they treated Star almost as if he were a person. One afternoon Elly thought Star needed a nap, so she did her best to make him comfortable. She brought out her own blanket and pillow and made Star lie down on his side. Then she put the pillow under his head and tucked the blanket in all around him. Star seemed to enjoy it even though ponies usually sleep standing up.

Another afternoon Elly came up with a strange idea. She decided Star should come into the house for a bowl of milk at the kitchen table! Sue didn't think it was a good idea at all. “We'll get into trouble, Elly!” Sue said.

Elly answered, “We were never told not to bring Star in the house. And besides, don't you think Star deserves the very best we have? Anyway, Mom and Dad will never know. They won't be home for at least another hour.”

It didn't take much convincing from Elly for Sue to change her mind.

They led Star up the steps of the back stairway and through the back door. First, they gave Star a tour of the house, thinking that it was quite natural for the pony to be interested in the place where they lived.

Then they brought him into the kitchen where they poured milk into their mother's favorite mixing bowl and set it on the table in front of Star. He was delighted and slurped it up with his long pony tongue. Star wasn't very neat, so

some of the milk splattered on the floor. Then when he was almost finished... he sneezed and knocked the bowl off the table! **It landed on the floor and broke with a crash!**

Now the girls were in trouble. They decided it was time to take Star out of the house. They led him to the back porch, but he would not go back down the steps. The girls tugged on his lead rope, but he wouldn't budge! Going up the steps had been easy, but going back down was a different matter. They tried standing at the bottom of the steps and pleading with Star to come down, but he just stood still, blinking his eyes. Star must have been afraid of falling.

In thinking over their problem, Sue remembered that the steps to the front door were



wider. She suggested to Elly that maybe Star would walk down those steps. So, they led him to the front of the house. But no matter how hard they coaxed him, he would not go down those steps either.

The girls were almost in tears. They knew their parents would be home any minute, and they knew full well that they would be in more trouble than just over the broken bowl if their parents found Star in the house! They even tried coaxing Star with carrots and sugar cubes, but nothing worked. Star just would not go down the steps.

Just then the two girls saw their parents' car pull into the driveway.

Let's stop here for a moment and think how the girls got themselves into trouble. It was easy to get Star up the steps and into the house, and didn't the girls have a good time! **But when it was time to take him back outside, they couldn't get Star to go down the steps.** It's also easy for

boys and girls to get into trouble, sin trouble.

But how impossible it is for them to get out of it... unless God's Son, the Lord Jesus, helps them.

In fact, every person on earth (except the Lord Jesus) has gotten into sin trouble. The Bible tells us,

"There is none righteous [good], no, not one" (Romans 3:10), and, "The soul that [sins], it shall die" (Ezekiel 18:20). When a person sins, it's as if they get a stain on their heart, and there is no way they can get rid of that ugly stain. But God has seen our need, and because He loves us so much, He sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die on the cross. There He bore all the punishment for the sins of anyone who will believe that Jesus died for them. That is why it is so important to believe in the Lord Jesus. **When we believe in Jesus, His blood, which was shed on the cross, cleans us, once and for all, from every stain of sin and makes us ready for heaven.**

It is very important to know this: One sin is enough to keep a boy or girl out of heaven, while a million sins will not keep a boy or girl out of heaven *if they accept Jesus as their own Savior*. If you have not yet accepted Him, now is the very best time to settle the matter. After you become a believer, why don't you tell someone, like a friend or your parents, how you have accepted Jesus as your Savior.

Now it's time to tell you what happened to Star and the girls. When Mr. Trumaine got to the house and heard the girls' tearful story, he tied a blindfold over Star's eyes. Then he carefully and slowly led him down the steps and then off to the stable where he belonged. Elly and Sue were so glad their daddy was able to get Star safely back to his stable. But they both did get in trouble, and never again did they think of bringing their pony into the house.

What Happens When We Eat?

Part 2

“Thine hands have made me and fashioned me together round about.” Job 10:8

Job knew that everything inside him was made by a divine Creator and that the workings of his body didn't “just happen.”

In the last article we thought about how our bodies need a continual supply of food, and how the body gets this food ready for its use, first of all, by the chewing process. After the food is properly chewed and moistened in the mouth, it is swallowed into the throat. Once it reaches that point, the eater has no more control over it, for everything then takes place automatically.

The long tube between the mouth and stomach is known as the *esophagus*, where muscles push the food along to the *stomach*. Food remains in the stomach for three or four hours for further processing.

At this point we meet another miraculous structure that God has designed within us. **The membrane of the stomach has about 35 million little glands** that work together, making gastric juice, which, with enzymes and helpful bacteria, break down proteins and carbohydrates and manufacture all kinds of vitamins from the food. You didn't know you had a vitamin factory inside you, did you?

Eventually, everything that entered

the stomach becomes fluid (with very few exceptions), and when this has taken place, this organ has served its purpose. The liquefied food is then automatically passed along into the next stage of the digestive process, which takes place in the *small intestine*. The result of the empty stomach is that hunger is experienced and the appetite for more food is renewed. **Mankind, in general, has taught himself to eat just three times daily, but most other living creatures must eat during almost all their waking hours** in order to satisfy the needs of their bodies. Our kidneys, liver and other organs, which are eventually nourished by the food we eat, have very interesting functions as well. Thus, the body works together harmoniously just as God designed it to function.

The way in which food must pause for processing in various parts of the body reminds us that God's holy Bible should be read with care. Through

the Holy Spirit we will grow stronger spiritually as the living Word of God is digested. The Apostle Paul spoke of this when he wrote of being “nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine” (1 Timothy 4:6).

Never hurry when you read the Word of God. It is better to read a few verses and “hear what God the Lord will speak” than to read many verses in a hurry without time to think about what you are reading. Good advice for everybody is found in the verse: “Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them” (1 Timothy 4:15). May our prayer be, “Feed me with food convenient for me” (Proverbs 30:8).

(to be continued)

Did You Know?

Food remains in the stomach for three or four hours for processing.

