

The Spirit of Christmas

By KATHERINE EDELMAN



I AM THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS! Today I rule over the world as no king or queen ever ruled. I hold gifts in my arms that no ruler ever held and I scatter them with a lavish hand. I am loved by my subjects with a love that has no hint of fear, for they feel that I am working for their happiness.

WITH my magic hand I heal the hurts in many hearts. I pluck out by the roots the resentments and rancors that make men unhappy. I bring peace and understanding to hearts that know it not. Along my way I scatter seeds of faith, of hope, of love, that will spring up and bear fruit after the last echo of my footsteps shall be heard. I leave behind me beautiful memories to enrich and gladden, unnumbered dreams to make men more happy.

WITH my touch I create new friendships—I strengthen those that are already formed and make more dear and more precious the ties of home and kindred. To the little children I bring joy beyond telling, happiness beautiful to behold; to their elders I bring again the faith they knew in childhood. I am the instigator of thousands of loving messages that go from friend to friend, from kin to kin. I have breathed something of myself into each and every one of the gaily tied packages that go to every home.

THE mantle that I wear is broad and encircling enough to cover the whole world, to give to every heart a shelter and protection from fears and doubts, from hates and mistrusts, from all the things that keep men and women from their heritage of happiness. Within its folds I welcome every class and creed, every race and color—for all of them I have comfort and warmth.

I AM the Spirit of Christmas—broad, tolerant, loving! Every where today my presence is felt—my power is unlimited, my word supreme! I rule the world from land to land and from shore to shore. I am welcome in every home and at every hearth—the most loved and most welcome monarch the world has ever known.

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