

LOVE IS ALSO DUMB

An African Fairy Tale

By BEL-NARB SKARMI

Princess Kalima was the only daughter of King Tsurundu, the most powerful potentate of Yuganda in all antiquity.

Kalima was the loveliest princess in all Africa. She was as gentle as she was beautiful, and as strange as loving.

When mystery becomes an element of understanding, a person is generally misunderstood. And so was the case with Princess Kalima.

"How beautiful is our Princess!" the people used to whisper to each other. "But her beauty is a curse. She behaves so mysteriously!"

"We hear," some others used to gossip, "that our princess is only preoccupied with animals. She has turned down all powerful princes that sought her hand."

"Sh-h-h!" The whispers used to become almost inaudible. "Yes, the only lovers she allows to pay her court are an elephant and a frog!"

A shiver of fright and disgust ran through the gossip-mongers.

But fortunately Princess Kalima had one friend who did understand her, and that friend was none but her august father, King Tsurundu.

"Kalima dear," once said the king, "I do not know why you hate the sight of innumerable princes who want to love you and make you happy. Instead you stick to that elephant and that frog. They aren't even human. What do you expect from their company?"

Princess Kalima drew near her father, grew tender and affectionate. She caressed and played with his grayish beard as she answered, "Happiness, of course."

"Happiness!" the king was surprised. He hesitated before he asked again, for in Kalima's answer there was more than a dash of self-confidence. "Happiness from dumb animals?"

"I must also be dumb," rejoined the princess, and then she burst into laughter.

"Oh, dearest, kindest father," she continued, "haven't you heard the saying of our villagers, which means 'Love Is Blind? I say that in addition, 'My Love Is Also Dumb.'"

The king did not wish to pursue the matter any further. He concluded by saying in a loving voice "Well, my dear child, I think you know best. I would trust a woman's intuition rather . . ."

The elephant came to the pond, filled its trunk with water, and spouted it furiously. Came the frog to the shore, and at his sight the elephant got calmed down.

"It's a pity to even take notice of such a weakling of a frog," said the elephant to himself.



There stood a powerful, handsome prince and a deformed magician where the elephant and frog once stood.

"Why are you so furious, my dear fellow?" asked the frog.

"Did you tell Princess Kalima that I am your horse?"

"No!"

"Now don't be a liar, in addition to being a weakling. I want to take you to the princess to verify if you said . . ."

"All right," cut in the frog. And they started for the palace.

After a little way the frog pleaded, "My dear, elephant, I am tired. Will you let me ride on your back?"

"You are a weakling," chuckled the elephant. "All right, you may ride."

"I am falling!" cried the frog, after

a while. "Let me seek small cords to bind to your tusks so that I can sit safe."

The elephant assented. He was very good natured.

"I want to repay your kindness, Mr. Elephant," announced the frog, rather maliciously. "The mosquitoes are biting you. Let me get some green twigs and chase them off."

The elephant again assented.

Princess Kalima ran to meet her lovers.

The frog clapped his paws and laughed in triumph. "You see? The elephant is my horse. I am riding him. I am clever as ever!"

The elephant gave a jolt, and the frog came tumbling down.

"I knew you were a liar. Now you are misusing my good-hearted kindness, my dear weakling." Then he said sadly, "My beloved princess, I withdraw my suit since I am so easily taken in. Let me love you from a distance."

After hearing the entire story, Princess Kalima resented the petty,

do furnaces for keeping them warm in winter.

Personally, I can stay in church for a couple of hours on Sunday with just as much ease as I can spend eight or more hours in an office on Monday.

W. J. ESTERS, barber, 400 McMechen Street: "I think that churches should stay open all the time. I don't think they should even put a lock on the church door even when they are mad with the preacher. During the summer the parks and other places of amusement are constantly enticing the young people away and causing them to get into all kinds of devilment. The church should remain open all summer to offset this."

WILLIAM H. HOWARD, 1500 Madison Avenue, laborer: "I agree with that part of the scripture which says that the church of God should be open in season and out of season."

MRS. LILIAN LOTTIER, 1609 Druid Hill Avenue: "No. Of course I don't think that churches should be closed up in the summer time. However, I do think that they might modify their services and change programs to better suit hot weather conditions."

MRS. ETHEL DAY, 1122 N. Carrollton Avenue: "No. I do not think that churches should be closed during vacation, but I think that services might be shortened and the night services discontinued until the fall. If they were closed altogether, the expense might accumulate so much that the church would be too heavily burdened with debt in the fall. Then, too, the membership might fall off and it would be uncertain whether it would return to normal at the resumption of the full program."

MRS. MAE TURNER, 615 Arlington Avenue: "No, I do not believe that churches should be closed up entirely and any time. In fact our churches are shut up too much of the time now, when one considers the huge sums of money that go into church buildings, it seems that they ought to be put to a wider use."

"I do think that services during the summer season should be very brief and made as interesting as possible, even more so than during the remainder of the year."

JOHN G. BROWN, 740 Fremont Avenue: "Well, I don't go to church much anyway, but still I like to see the church door open so that when I feel like it I can drop in. If the church services would begin on time and not keep in so long, I would not mind their being open all the year round."

MISS MARGARET MONROE, member of Shiloh Baptist Church, 301 Druid Hill Avenue: "I don't think that churches should close for a vacation during the summer. Places of sin don't close, so why should the house of God?"

MRS. HENRIETTA S. JOLLEY, 1118 Division Street: "God is not something we can lay aside when we want to and then return and find it in the same place we left it." I am in favor of the services being shortened but not done away with during the summer months."

MRS. ELSIE PITTS, 1303 Druid Hill Ave.: "I don't believe in, nor do I favor the closing of churches during the summer months, because we need to hear and get spiritual advice as much in the summer as in the winter."

HOWARD BROOKS, 1118 Division Street: "Churches seem to be like business organizations, so why shouldn't they close like the majority of commercial organizations. Besides, in the summer the heat makes one uncomfortable to such an extent that one won't go anyhow."

ROY S. BOND, ATTORNEY, and trustee of Sharp Street Church: "There is nothing I have to say, although I lean in the direction of continuing the services summer."

lying frog. Then she said, "Mr. Frog, you must have been a fool of a magician in your former life. Be despised as ever."

"You are good, strong, intelligent and kind," said she turning to the elephant. "You are the mighty ruler of the forest, and now be my Prince Royal. I prefer your 'dumbness' to the frog's 'cleverness.'"

A shriek was heard. The King and his courtiers rushed to the side of the princess. There stood an ugly, deformed magician and a powerful handsome prince where there formerly stood a frog and an elephant.

"I am undone," shouted the magician. "A woman's belief in goodness has liberated us. But I am undone." He was crouching.

The king came forward and took the prince by his hand and asked him to propose a punishment for the magician.

"I shall forgive him. Let him go." "Well spoken," said Princess Kalima with tears of joy in her eyes as she came and stood by his side.

The king looked at the handsome prince and his comely daughter with delight and announced, "O Prince, whoever you may be, you have possessed my daughter's heart. Will you also inherit my kingdom?"

Slavery Even Yet

By SIDNEY L. GULICK
in the Federal Council Bulletin.

To an appalling extent slavery still curses the human race. The disclosures of terrible conditions in Liberia last December came as a shock to most Americans who had believed that that country, set up by American Negroes under the sponsorship of the United States, was a land where Negro rights were securely and faithfully conserved.

Thanks, however, to Secretary Stimson's courageous dealing with that situation, and thanks also to the co-operation of the League of Nations, that small section of Africa is now in line for the final overthrow of slavery.

But much still remains to be done before slavery and forced labor—as bad or even worse than slavery—will be fully overthrown everywhere. To reach this goal the Christian conscience in civilized lands must be awakened, informed and brought into practical action. Here in the United States our people, even church people, know practically nothing of the situation. We hear occasionally of the interest of the League of Nations in this matter. The papers have reported a general Treaty on Slavery completed after several years of study and finally signed by many nations in Geneva in 1926. It was not, however, until February, 1929, that the Treaty was ratified by the United States Senate. There is little popular interest in this matter.

Active leadership in the anti-slavery campaign is found in England. For many years the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society has kept faithful watch of the rights and interests of native populations in all parts of the world. It has been keenly alert to the dangers of the encroachments of invading explorers and exploiters from Europe. Its quarterly magazine, The Anti-Slavery Reporter (Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London) is a veritable storehouse of information. Nothing seems to escape the keen eye and mind of the editor and parliamentary secretary of the society, John H. Harris.

Among recent revelations is the active slave trade from Abyssinia into Arabia. It has been investigated by the representative of the French newspaper, Le Matin, the report running to twenty-one issues last May and June, "giving the statements of slave dealers in their own words." The slave dealers, it appears, are Arabs. Auction sales have ceased. But slaves are still conveyed in large caravan parties and embarked secretly on ships for sale in Arabia.

ONE SHORTCOMING

"Ah, old fellow," said a man meeting a friend in the street, "so you're married at last. Allow me to congratulate you, for I hear you have an excellent and accomplished wife."

"I have indeed," was the reply. "Why, she's at home in literature, at home in music, at home in art, at home in science—in short, she is at home everywhere except—"

"Except what?"

"Except at home."

SHOULD CHURCHES BE CLOSED FOR SUMMER VACATIONS AS ARE THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

Inquiring Reporter Finds Citizens Have Positive Views on This Question.

The question stated below, though propounded by this newspaper, did not originate in our office.

It is a question which comes up yearly and is answered even by pastors somewhat differently, one from another. The opinions of a few representative citizens are given below.

THE REV. E. N. THOMAS, pastor, St. Luke A.M.E. Church, Elliott City, Md.: "The churches should hold services throughout the year because the interest can easily be killed by having a vacation. Schools are different, because they are compulsory and churches are not. People want excuses for not attending church and this would only encourage them. Keep people interested at all times."

CARROLL FIELDS, school teacher, Yes, I think that churches should close during the hot weather. Attendance naturally falls off during this period and the interest of those few who do attend is at a low ebb."

MRS. ELOISE WRIGHT, school teacher: "I do not think that the churches should close. Let them remain open so that those who desire to worship may have the opportunity."

MRS. EDITH FIELDS, admitting nurse, Provident Hospital: "The churches should remain open during the hot weather, but the services should be made considerably shorter."

RICHARD SCOTT, barber, 416 Druid Hill Avenue: "I think that churches should remain open during the summer because many people would be lost without them."

MRS. ALICE GROSS, 1626 Madison Avenue: "I do not think that the church should close during the summer months. I do not think the church should ever be closed. I believe that if the church were to be closed that the people would not know what to do with themselves without hearing the word of God. I am in favor of shorter services, however."

MISS I. Z. LANSLOWNE, 528 N. Calhoun Street: "I do not think the churches should be closed during the summer months because it can never be too hot to hear the word of God. People die in the summer as well as in the winter and they need to serve the Lord in the summer as well as in the winter. I do approve of shorter services."

ROBERT L. HENSON, 622 Pitcher Street: "I can't find any record of the Lord having taken a vacation. The church is losing its grip as it is, and if churches close for weeks I think too much ground would be lost. I do think that churches should alter their services to weather conditions."

"At our church (Trinity A.M.E.) our Allen Christian Endeavor League is discontinued during the hot months. Sunday school is moved from the 2 p.m. hour to a 9 a.m. hour, when it is cooler. We continue our evening services because of the number of members who, because of their employment, cannot attend the 11 o'clock service, but who want a similar service in the evening."

DR. GEORGE E. CURRY, superintendent of the Washington Methodist Episcopal Church: "The principal

service of the Sabbath, that of the morning, should not be interfered with. I do think, however, that where Sunday schools are held in the afternoon they might be changed to a cooler hour of the morning and that evening services might be shortened. When I was in the pastorate, it was my custom to limit evening worship to a vesper service for one hour during the warm summer months."

REV. A. C. NELSON, pastor of Ames M.E. Church, Belair, Md.: "I think that during the summer months services should be shortened. Unless churches are equipped with modern cooling devices, the excessive heat detracts from the worship. I do not think, however, that services should be eliminated, because it would indulge the tendency of our people to remain away from church during the months when such an excuse was not available."

MRS. E. BROWN, 234 McCulloh Street, housewife: "I think that services should be eliminated for a vacation period during the summer. One can't concentrate on a religious worship when one is extremely uncomfortable from heat. It is punishing also to small children to confine them to a crowded auditorium for Sabbath school hours, unless the hours were changed to earlier morning or late afternoon, when the day is coolest."

MISS L. ERWIN, 2346 McCulloh Street, clerk: "I do not see why the services should be eliminated nor even shortened during any season of the year. We do not think of closing businesses nor movies, nor even schools. Is not the church the business of God, the school of Christianity and joy and pleasure of the Christian?"

"One needs not suffer discomfort. We have cars, or street railway service to take us to the church, and some of the money continually being put into churches may as well provide fans or other means of keeping the buildings cool in summer, as we