

SAFETY SECTION

LIMBAS

By MARIANO PASCUAL *

THEY called it the "limbas." It was truly a beautiful little thing. It could fly in the sky and turn this way and that and up and down like any living bird. Of course it was not a bird. It was only a kite. But this kite was like a living bird because it could swoop down and tear another kite as easily as a hawk or an eagle swoop down upon a chicken. That is why it was called the "limbas."

Perto loved the "limbas." His uncle made it for him one Saturday afternoon in November. In November, the days and the nights are cold and the wind is good for flying kites. When the kite was finished, Perto went to the beach and flew his kite there. It was not yet called the "limbas." There were many other boys in the beach flying kites. Some of their kites were red; some yellow; some were green. Perto's kite was white with two little red wings flapping in the air. It flew up and up and up and seemed to say, "See how well I can fly!"

There was a green kite flying near Perto's kite. The green kite looked at Perto's kite and said, "I can fight you, white kite. I can fight you!"

Perto's kite shook in the wind with laughter. "Ha! ha! ha!" it laughed. "I laugh at you, green kite. Come and fight me. I laugh at you!"

And so the two kites fought. The green kite snapped his teeth at the white kite's tail. But the white kite jumped away and swooped down upon the green kite. The white kite caught the green one on the face and bit him until his face was torn all over.

When Perto's kite went down the boys in the beach crowded round it.

"What a beautiful kite!" said one. "It fights like the 'limbas'."

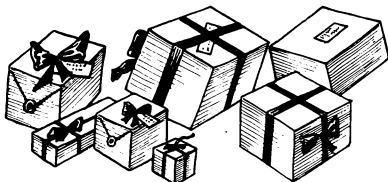
And so it was called the "limbas."

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THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

By JOSE FELICIANO *

CHRISTMAS is here again to gladden our hearts. What child does not look forward to the coming of this day? And what grown person is not carried away by the spirit of Christmas? Old and young, rich and poor, join in the observance of this holiday, the happiest of all the year. People wish one another peace, happiness, and prosperity. From everyone's lips comes joyously, "I wish you a merry Christmas."



Why do you think the Christmas season so full of joy for every one? There seems to be only one answer: we give with all our heart and we wish others all the blessings from above. Yes, we believe in the old, old saying, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Of course, it is not all giving, for we also receive something—not necessarily in return for what we have given. No, indeed. If we remember our friends, they too remember us. If we give something out of the goodness of our heart, others do the same. Kindness begets kindness.

Now I should like to remind you of something you should not fail to do when Christmas comes around and even afterwards. You, who are fortunate enough to have a good home, loving family and friends, and comforts of life, must not forget your less fortunate brothers. Young as you are, you know that there are people who have not even the bare necessities of life. They are not to blame for not having enough to live comfortably. Perhaps misfortunes have befallen them one after another. Perhaps they have lost their piece of land, or their employment. We cannot exactly tell why

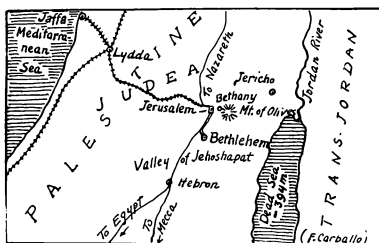
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WHERE CHRIST WAS BORN

By FRANCISCO CARBALLO *



BETHLEHEM
And Its Surroundings

A CHRISTMAS DAY approaches, the minds and hearts of Christians all over the world are turned to that mysterious town of Bethlehem in Palestine where Jesus Christ was born about one thousand nine hundred and thirty-five years ago. During that time, Palestine was a Roman province when Augustus Caesar was emperor and the local king was Herod.

Bethlehem is from the Hebrew *Beit Lahm* which means 'house of bread.' This name has been appropriately given to the place for Bethlehem was and still is the wheat granary of the surrounding country due to the fertility of its soil.

There are about six thousand inhabitants in Bethlehem, consisting of Christians, Moslems, and Jews. In the town proper some men are engaged in carving pearl shells for various decorative purposes and the women produce beautiful embroideries. In the suburbs, most of the people are occupied in wheat and barley raising, sheep herding, and tending vineyards olive and pomegranate orchards.

Most of the houses are built of rough-hewn stones and are plastered to give the walls an appearance of solidity. The roofs are flat and these serve as roof gardens where members of the family gather to enjoy the cool Judean air during the summer evenings. The one-storeyed houses, in general appearance resemble those found in the Batanes Islands with the difference that the roofs of the latter are covered with grass thatching.

Most streets are narrow and winding, and people go about on foot or ride on the backs of donkeys or camels. Products for local consumption are still brought in by camel caravans.

Water for domestic use is secured from wells, cisterns, and tanks which collect water during the rainy season. The community well, however, is an important social center for here the townspeople meet to get water, and while waiting for their turns, they exchange the latest news of the day. Travelers water their animals here also.

Everything, however, is not antiquated in Judea, for with the com-

ing of the British, under whose mandate the Holy Land is governed, institutions and implements of western civilization, such as improved roads, schools, hospitals, automobiles, sewing machines, electricity, and the like, have been introduced in the country. Pilgrims may now visit Bethlehem leisurely in automobiles and autobuses which run the ten-kilometer distance from Jerusalem in short time. With these innovations however, most of the Bethlehemites still cling to the modes of dress and traditions of their forefathers.

The chief center of interest in Bethlehem is, of course, the Church of the Nativity which is built on the spot claimed to be the place of the stable where Jesus was born in a manger. Here thousands of pilgrims from all parts of the world gather to worship, visit the places connected with the Nativity and the life of Christ, and take home with them souvenirs of the Holy Land.

Bethlehem is sometimes called the City of David for it was also the birthplace of that shepherd king who killed the boastful giant Goliath of the Philistines and wrote the beautiful psalms found in the Old Testament. Christ descended from David's line, and the prophets foretold his birth and his acclamation by the world as The King of Kings and the Saviour of Mankind. The light of His teachings have affected the lives of all Christendom, and we of the first Commonwealth of the Far East are now sharing that light which first shone on the first Christmas Day in Bethlehem.

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THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

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they have become so poor, but they must be remembered and aided.

On Christmas morning a beggar may knock at your door. He is

cold, tired, and hungry. Perhaps he has not had a good meal for many a day. A piece of bread may satisfy hunger, but it can hardly be enough for one meal. Then, for our dear Lord's sake, don't turn

him out into the streets. He comes to you because you have something to give away, and he has nothing. He would not come to you begging unless he is in great need.

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THE ELDEST OF EIGHT

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"The teacher sent us," Sioning answered.

"I have been very lonely," Lolita complained. "I wish I were a member of a family like Sioning's." Lolita finished with a sigh full of longing.

"What? Like mine?" Sioning asked in great surprise. "You don't know what it means to be the oldest of eight children."

"I do not know. Just the same, I would rather be one of eight than the only one and without a mother." Lolita returned.

"But you have your father who is very rich and very liberal to you."

"Oh, I have no complaint against my father. He is the best of fathers. But there is something very big that is lacking when there is no mother."

"You have servants to look after you," one of Sioning's companions remarked.

"You think that is fine. On my part, I would rather do all the housework and wait on my mother if only I had one." Lolita retorted in all earnestness.

"I feel I could bear all poverty and hardships if I could taste a mother's kiss." Lolita continued.

"My mother kisses me when I leave for school and at my arrival. We kiss also before we go to bed." Sioning's companion said with pride.

"My mother does not kiss me." Sioning thought.

"I thank you again for coming. I shall try to be present on Monday. By the way, Sioning, I have a piece of silk which I intended for a Mother's Day gift."

"A gift? For whom? You have no mother." The three callers asked in surprise.

"I make-believe that I have one. I even planned to embroider it. But now, I cannot carry out my project. You may have it Sioning, for your mother."

Sioning accepted the gift. The next day, while her mother was out, she made a lovely negligee with it and embroidered it with dainty sprays of lazy-daisy stitches.

CHRISTMAS

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Friends we surely have no right to be happy. Surely everybody can give something—a gift, a greeting, or a wish—"A Merry Christmas."

On Christmas we wish everybody joy, happiness and goodwill because it was on the first Christmas Day that God gave his best wishes, a gift to us—Jesus our Master and Saviour.

"And there were in the same shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

"And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone around about them; and they were sore afraid.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

"And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped

When Sioning placed her gift over her mother's pillow very early on the morning of Mothers' Day, there was no more resentment in her heart. There was only a wish that her mother might kiss her even once.

ANSWER TO THE LAST MONTH'S CROSS-WORD PUZZLE



THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

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You may have a schoolmate or a playmate whose parents you know will not be able to buy him a gift for Christmas. You have many good things of which your friend or companion has none. Will it not make you happy to give him a little of what you have? If your heart is truly kind, you can't bear to see someone suffer while you have more than enough to satisfy yourself.

Dear children, let me add one more thought about the spirit of giving. To feed the hungry, to clothe the ragged, to help the needy, or to give others costly gifts, is not enough. Your heart, full of willingness and love, should go with your gift or act of charity. I would value more a small loaf of bread given to me with the giver's goodwill. If you would share at all what you have with others, do so willingly and gladly. A poet says, "A gift without the giver is bare." Let us not think that what we give now is lost to us forever. Somehow or sometime good acts will be rewarded. Today the good things of life may be ours to enjoy; tomorrow we may lose them all. Those whom we have helped and even those whom we have not, may then do us a good turn. Giving with all one's heart and giving for the joy of it, is the true spirit of love for mankind. Such is the spirit of Christmas.

in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly host praising God, and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men."

Our gifts, our *fiestas*, our candies, our toys, our music, and all things we do to celebrate the Christmas Day are nothing unless they really and truly give glory to God, make peace on earth, and bring goodwill toward one another.

"A Merry Christmas to Everybody."