

THE TWIN STARS

By LUZ B. CABANOS *



LONG AGO there lived a peasant and his wife at a beautiful spot near the edge of a forest at the foot of a mountain. A pretty little brook near their cottage splashed over the stones, and birds sang in the branches of trees nearby. The man and his wife were a happy couple, because their humble home was made gay and cheerful by twin sisters who were the only children of the peasant and his wife.

The little twin girls were lovely children. They were often called "Little Stars" because they had eyes that sparkled like stars. They were as good, too, as they were pretty. All the people who went to the peasant's cottage loved the little "twin stars."

The family lived happily and contentedly. Every day the father went to cut wood in the forest, while his wife took care of the home and prepared the

food. The little "twin stars" helped their mother as much as they could. They fetched water from the spring, and gathered fuel from the edge of the forest.

Everything went well until the children were seven years old. One morning, just as usual, the peasant went to cut wood, but at sunset he did not return. So the anxious wife and children went out to look for him. To their horror they found his lifeless body where a tree had fallen on him.

The mother and her little "twin stars" had a hard time after that. They picked up the broken dead limbs of the trees of the forest and sold them in the village in order to get money for their daily needs.

A year passed. One morning the children were ill. Panic stricken, the mother passed her hand over the forehead of each. Both had a raging fever. For two days and two nights the mother kept watch over her precious "little stars," but the third day both children were worse and soon the life in each little body was snapped out.

After that the poor mother was very lonely. Every night she cried and prayed. "Dear Lord," she would say, "my little 'twin stars' are gone. I want to see them again."

One night she dreamed that an angel said to her, "Be comforted. Your prayer will be answered." She opened her eyes, and looked through the window. There in the sky shone two "twin stars." "There they are! My little 'twin stars'!" exclaimed the mother.

Ever since then they have shone in the sky. If you get a chart, you will find them listed—Gemini, the twin stars.

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