

Story #3: Princess Amanda and the Dragon

We will now turn our attention to the third obstacle that must be overcome on the way to God's party—the Devil.

David and Karen Mains have written a delightful book called *Tales of the Kingdom* (Chariot Books, 1983). The book is a collection of allegorical adventures about life in the kingdom of God. Hero, who symbolizes every Christian, is a featured character, but there are a host of other characters to meet—both good and evil.

Princess Amanda is another of the main characters. The story titled “Princess Amanda and the Dragon” has particular relevance for this lesson. If you have access to a copy of *Tales of the Kingdom*, you may want to read the Amanda story to the class. If not, a brief retelling occurs below.

Amanda, like so many of the characters in *Tales of the Kingdom*, seems real enough to remind us of ourselves. In this particular story, she is faced with a dilemma. She has been warned by Caretaker (He is the Christ figure in the stories) not to keep any of the dragon eggs that are present in the spring—and for obvious reasons.

A dragonet soon hatches from its egg. And while it appears fairly cute and cuddly at first, within six months it will be a full-grown monster—with rock-hard scales and fiery breath.

One warm spring day, Amanda finds an egg and decides to keep it for a while instead of taking it to Caretaker's house to be disposed of. It isn't long before a baby dragon cracks through the amber-colored shell—as cute as a dragon can appear. Amanda is torn. She knows what she is supposed to do but cannot resist playing with the newborn reptile for a little while.

The little while turns into weeks and then months. As it turns out, the cute creature becomes a demanding pet. All of Amanda's time is taken up with the care and feeding of the dragon.

She does not notice all at once, but the cute begins to wear off, and an ominous yellow glow appears in the dragon's eyes and grows brighter with each passing day. When Amanda finally comes to her senses and realizes what she has done, she takes the dragon far away from her home and tells it to stay away from her and the people of the kingdom.

The dragon becomes very angry. Amanda fully realizes that her cute pet has become a deadly monster. Her life and the lives of the residents of the kingdom are in danger. She cries out for Caretaker to come rescue her. He appears instantly, and she cries, “Kill it! Kill it!” But he cannot.

Caretaker tells Amanda, "I cannot kill this dragon. Only the one who loves a forbidden thing can do the slaying. You will always hate me if I do it. Only *you* can slay this dragon."

He gives Amanda an ax, and he stays close by while she fights her dragon. A fierce battle ensues. And with the coaching of Caretaker, Amanda is able to slay her beast.

In the last lines of the story, the authors provide this profound summary. "...When one loves a forbidden thing, one loses what one loves most. This truth is a hard-won battle for each who finds it and is always gained by loss."