

King Carrot and Aaron Apple

By a Co-worker of Helle Heckmann

Once upon a time, there was a mighty king named King Carrot. He was married to a beautiful queen, who was called Carla Corn, and they had a daughter even more beautiful. Her name was Princess Pear. They all lived in the beautiful country where the rainbow ends. The people living in that country were all good and skilful farmers. Every year at harvest time the people praised their mighty King Carrot for the wonderful harvest he had brought them.

Everywhere, the grain stood thick and on the golden fields, juicy apples, pears, and plums were hanging down from the vigorous trees. The flowers stood proud and beautiful with their clear and shining colors. While the farmers were harvesting, they sang:

*We praise you King Carrot
For all these gifts
Which during the long wintertime
Fill our stomachs and make us happy.*

King Carrot heard their songs and was filled with joy. He enjoyed riding among the singing farmers on his proud steed and listening to this lovely melody. One day, while he was happily riding, his ear caught a foreign melody. He wondered what it was and saw a boy names Aaron Apple, who sang from his heart:

*The sun shines on grain and fruit;
The rain makes them wet and glittering.
We thank the sun and earth
For the gifts we harvest.*

King Carrot wondered why the boy Aaron Apple could thank the sun, the rain, and the earth, when everybody knew that it was the King himself, who gave the people the lovely harvest. King Carrot said: "My dear boy. From tomorrow you will thank your King for the lovely harvest and not the sun, rain and earth." Aaron Apple did what the King demanded and sang the same song as all the other farmers:

*We praise you King Carrot
For all these gifts
Which during the long wintertime
Fill our stomachs and make us happy.*

The harvest ended and the farmers brought the grain and fruit to the barn and took care of their animals throughout the long winter. When spring arrived and everything started to grow, something strange happened. The sun hid itself behind the clouds, and the clouds did not give any rain for the ground, which cracked and no seeds were able to grow. The farmers started to worry about the coming harvest. After some time the farmers went to the King and said: "Why is it that will you not provide us with crops this year? What have we done to deserve this?" The King wondered and said: "I wish you the best harvest of them all. Go home and it shall be as I have told you." The farmers waited and the King wondered. How could this happen? "It was the first time that the harvest had failed in the country where the rainbow ends. The sun would not shine, the clouds would not rain, and the ground did not let any seeds grow.

All of a sudden King Carrot remembered the little boy Aaron Apple. At once he sent for him and Aaron Apple came to the King at his castle. During the long winter Aaron Apple had praised the King for the lovely harvest, just as the King had demanded. Yet Aaron Apple still knew that it was the

sun, rain, and earth which gave the people their wonderful harvest. King Carrot asked him: "What did you sing, my boy, the day I met you in the field during harvest?" Aaron Apple started singing:

*The sun shines on grain and fruit;
The rain makes them wet and glittering.
We thank the sun and earth
For the gifts we harvest.*

The King had to admit that the boy was singing the truth. The King was brave and fair, and he knew that even though he loved his people and his country, he was not the one to be praised for the harvest. The sun, the rain, and the earth were the ones to thank for the harvest every year.

King Carrot demanded that the whole country from now on should sing the song Aaron Apple had sung the day he first met him. The King sang, and the farmers sang, and they all watched the sun and rain return and the crops begin to grow again. The harvest could be celebrated again, and everybody sang:

*We praise you sun and rain and earth
For all these gifts
Which during the long wintertime
Fill our stomachs and make us happy*

King Carrot and Queen Carla Corn never forgot Aaron Apple because he married their beautiful daughter Princess Pear. And they all lived long and happily in the country where the rainbow ends.