

*The  
Magic Child*

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# *The Magic Child*

or

How It All Started

*What can you see today on the Earth?*

*Today, on the Earth,*

*You can see...*

*... lots of planes and cars and boats  
and houses and things of all kinds.*

*You can see...*

*... lots of people, lots of animals,  
and also lots of tree and plants.*

*All of that is there today on the Earth.*

*But...*

*It has not always been like that!*

*Not at all!*

*Long ago,  
there were no planes,  
no cars, no boats,  
no houses,  
there was nothing yet  
of all the things  
that people know now  
how to make.*

*But that's not all.*

*Long, long ago,  
There were no PEOPLE yet  
on the Earth.  
Can you imagine that?!*  
*- NOBODY! -*  
*And...*  
*that's not all either!*

*Long, long,  
very long ago,  
there were no ANIMALS yet  
on the Earth.*

*And  
long, long,  
really long ago,  
there were no PLANTS yet  
on the Earth.*

*In fact, at that time,  
there was nothing at all yet  
on the Earth.*

*But it is not finished!*

*Do you know what?  
Before that,  
there was even...*

*- oh, that's impossible! -*

*... No Earth at all! ...*

*... No Moon either! ...*

*... No stars either! ...*

*... Not even the Sun  
was there!*

*...*

***THERE WAS  
NOTHING AT ALL!!!***

*And now,  
do you know how it all started?*

*It's such a wonderful story!*

*The story starts like this:*

*Chapter 1*

# *The Magic Child*

*Once upon a time, long - long - long - long ago, there was nothing at all.*

*Nothing at all anywhere, but a Magic child, alone there in this Nothing - at - All.*

*What was he doing there alone?*

*Just enjoying being there, and being the Magic Child. And, yes, magic he was!*

*He could be as small as small can be - and then it was just as if he was not there at all!*

*Or he could be as big as big can be - and then it was just as if he was everywhere!*

*He could be transparent and shiny like a bubble, with rainbows playing in it.*

*Or gold and warm like a smiling sun.*

*He could be soft, or hard, or old, or young, or whatever he wanted to be.*

*But what he liked really most of all was to be a drop of honey.*

*Have you ever tasted honey? Do you remember how wonderfully delicious that was?*

*Well, the Magic Drop of Honey was at least one million times more delicious than that. So you can imagine that the Magic Child was quite happy, spending all his time enjoying himself, singing for himself, dancing with himself and tasting his own wonderful honey-taste.*

*He was so happy that one day he said to himself:  
“It would be really fun to be all at the same time!*

*To be everything at the same time, I would just have to be many, many Magic Children, each of them playing to be one of the things I can be! And we would play all together like that, like many, many friends, and still it would really be just me, just the Magic Child, playing with myself in all the others! That would be really fun!”*

*“Let’s start immediately.”*

*“Let’s start already by being two Magic Children at the same time. We could be the Magic Boy and the Magic Girl; we would be friends, and we would start the whole game together!”*

*And as soon as the Magic Child said that to himself,  
he became two:  
the Magic Boy and the Magic Girl.*

## *Chapter 2*

# *The Magic Boy and the Magic Girl*

*They looked at each other and smiled.*

*They were very happy.*

*“Let’s play!” said the Magic Girl.*

*“Okay,” said the Magic Boy.*

*“Which game are we going to play?”*

*“Oh, let’s play hide and seek!” said the Magic Girl.*

*“You will hide, and I will look for you!”*

*“That’s a pretty good idea,” said the Magic Boy, “but where shall I hide? There is nothing but you and me in this Nothing – at – All!”*

*“That’s no problem,” said the Magic Girl. “You are the Magic Boy, I am sure you’ll find something so that we can play hide and seek.”*

*“Wait just a little bit more,” said the Magic Boy. “You wanted to play hide and seek. For that, I need something to hide behind, or into even – something quite different from me, so that I don’t get recognized too easily; something like the contrary of me maybe ... a kind of ‘No – Child’, you see?”*

*“Would he be Magic like us?” asked the Magic Girl.*

*“It would be more fun then!” said the Magic Boy. “If he is Magic too, then he can be my Enemy, and we can pretend to fight against each other, and see who will win!”*

*“Oh, that’s quite an interesting idea,” said the Magic Girl.*

*“So, he would be something like the Magic No – Child?”*

*“That’s exactly what he would be,” said the Magic Boy.*

*“Let’s see right now what he would look like!”*

*Just as the Magic Boy finished saying these words, the Magic No – Child was there, standing in front of them.*

### *Chapter 3*

## *The Magic No - Child*

*There was a moment of silence. The Magic No - Child was indeed there, but one couldn't really see him somehow. It was just like a big dark Shadow standing there. He seemed rather unreal, but at the same time, he was there, very much there, and his strange presence could be felt quite strongly.*

*So strongly even that the Magic Boy and the Magic Girl came discreetly closer to each other, as if to feel stronger and safer in front of him. Something quite strange also was that they couldn't take their eyes away from him.*

*"Well," whispered the Magic Girl to the Magic Boy next to her, "here is your Magic No - Child! Aren't you scared?"*

*"I couldn't say I am not," the Magic Boy whispered back, "but I can't understand what's so scary about him!"*

*"I know," whispered the Magic Girl. "He looks just like a big dark Nothing getting ready to swallow you up into*

*his big dark nothingness! That's pretty scary! Magic Boy, what are we going to do? Do you really want to play with that terrible fellow? Do you think he would be able to play, first of all? He doesn't seem to know how to laugh even!"*

*"Surely not," the Magic Boy whispered back. "He is the No - Child, so how could he laugh or play! But I wonder how magic he is. For he is the Magic No - Child, so he must be as magic as us!"*

*"I am afraid you're right," whispered the Magic Girl in a very tiny, tiny voice. "Did you notice how cold it is since he is there?!"*

*In fact, both of them were shivering. During all that time, the big dark shadow of the Magic No - Child, immobile and silent, seemed to have grown bigger and darker, and the air became colder too.*

*There was again a moment of silence.*

*"But after all!" suddenly whispered the Magic girl. "After all, Magic Boy, remember! You made him, just to have an Enemy to fight with! So, even if he is magic too, he can't be more magic than you!!!"*

*“That’s right!” exclaimed the Magic Boy, like awaking from a bad dream; and he was not whispering at all any more when he added: “But remember! I am the Magic Child! And you are also the Magic Child! And he is the Magic Child too!! How could we forget?! We all are just the Magic Child playing to be three!! How could we be silly enough to be scared?! We should rather laugh and laugh and laugh!!!”*

*The Magic Boy was laughing and laughing, but the Magic Girl wasn’t so sure yet whether she should laugh. She was still looking at the terrible Magic No - Child, so huge and dark and scary. Suddenly, her eyes grew wide with surprise, and she exclaimed:*

*“Oh, Magic Boy, look, it’s so funny! Look! Don’t you think the Magic No - Child is not so big anymore, and not so dark either?! Oh! That’s so incredibly funny!!!”*

*And she was right! The Magic No - Child was getting smaller and lighter as they were laughing, and one could almost see a smile on his shadowish face, as if he was himself refraining from laughing.*

*“Oh! I see!” exclaimed the Magic Boy, “That’s the secret! I know, Magic girl, I know now his secret! I know how to*

*melt away the terrible Magic No - Child! Guess how?! By laughing at him!! If you are scared, he grows bigger, if you laugh at him, he melts away, he becomes the Magic Child again! You see, you see?! The Magic No - Child is melting back into the Magic Child!!”*

*Yes, through the cloudy grim head of the Magic No - Child, they could see now a most lovely face just like theirs, all round and sweet and beautiful, shining like a honey-gold sun of happiness. The Magic Child was there in front of them, laughing, and in themselves too they could feel his wonderful presence.*

*For an instant, they were not three magic Children anymore; there was just the one and only Magic Child, his eyes sparkling with fun, his irresistible honey-laughter filling up everything like an enormous sea of joy.*

*“That game is starting quite well!” said the Magic Child to himself. “Let’s see how it will go on!”*

*And the next moment, the Magic Child had become three again: The Magic Boy, the Magic Girl and the Magic No - Child were back there, ready to play.*

*Chapter 4*

# *Let's Play*

*This time,  
it was the Magic Boy who said:*

*“And now, let's play!!!”*

*At the same instant, in a fantastic explosion of joy, the Magic Boy became ten billion billions of laughing honey-sparks, whirling everywhere together like a dancing sea of light! Ten billion billions of Magic Children who were going to be, each of them, one of the things a Magic Child can be!*

*The game had started.*

*But the Magic No - Child was also ready. He immediately threw on all the little magic sparks a huge, sticky net of darkness; suddenly caught in the icy cold mesh of the net, their light imprisoned in a hard, dark crust, the little sparks forgot at once that they were the Magic Child. They started bumping into each other*

*helplessly, whirling slower and slower. They had become ten billion billions of tiny black dots.*

*It was now all dark and cold and silent everywhere.*

*The Magic No - Child had done all that so fast, and the Magic Girl had been so surprised by his trick, she had had no time to try and stop him.*

*But now, the Magic Girl was fighting back: she became as big as big can be, bigger even than the enormous night of the Magic No - Child. She took every thing into her arms of light and tenderness.*

*With an ironic smile, she said to the Magic No - Child: "You thought you had won, didn't you?!"*

*I think you have not!"*

*He said calmly:*

*"I have won. All the honey-sparks have forgotten who they are. I have them all in my power now, forever!"*

*"Not forever!" said the Magic Girl. One day, they will remember that they are the Magic Child, and they will be free again, free from you, forever!"*

*"And who will make them remember?!"*

*“I will!” said the Magic Girl.*

*“Impossible!”*

*“Let’s see! Let’s see who wins in the end! And if it takes some time, then what?! It means more fun! My friend the Magic Boy is there, in each of them, and with him I will play forever, forever! I want no end at all to my game with my friend!”*

*And the Magic Girl, laughing happily, didn’t pay any attention to the Magic No - Child any more. She started tenderly rocking all the little honey-sparks, singing in a soft voice:*

*“Sleep quietly, my friend,  
Dear Magic Boy, sleep well,  
I’ll take care of you  
Till you wake up and smile....”*

*She was preparing her plan.*

## Chapter 5

# *The First Things a Magic Child Can Be*

*First of all, she had to help the Magic Boy to start becoming all the things a Magic Child can be.*

*To make up something, one has to start by making up the first tiny bit of it: the first atom of it. So, the Magic Girl started doing just that. She invented a very clever way to make the little black dots join together, two by two; and every time two of them joined in that clever way, that made the first thing, the simplest thing a Magic Child can be: an atom of hydrogen. The atoms of hydrogen were so many that they looked, all together, like some kind of huge cloud spreading about everywhere.*

*They were still swirling around all together. At the centre the atoms of hydrogen, being closer together, were rubbing against each other, more and more, more and more, and they became very hot, so hot that they started to burn: the whole swirl turned into a big ball of fire. It*

*had become the first star! At last, there was some light and heat again!*

*Already, over there too, in that other place, another star was starting to shine, and another one here, and a fourth one there! Soon, many, many stars were dancing in the sky, and more were appearing all the time. How beautiful it was!*

*The Magic Girl was watching these beginnings of the Universe.*

*“That’s a good start!” she said to herself. “All these wonderful stars shining happily around look a bit like my dear Magic Boy already!”*

*It was all quite beautiful indeed, but that was only the first part of her plan! What to do next? How to invent the next simplest thing a Magic Child can be?*

*There was only hydrogen till then; even the stones were just huge balls of burning hydrogen. What about melting atoms of hydrogen together? Maybe that would make something else?*

*Inside the stars, it was quite hot; so hot that the Magic Girl could immediately start melting some atoms*

*of hydrogen together. First, two by two: and poof! The two hydrogen atoms became one deuterium atom!*

*Then she tried melting three, four, five and even more atoms of hydrogen together, in all kinds of different ways - and she got atoms of all kinds of different things!*

*Now by that time, something else had happened.*

*The Magic Girl was looking at all that with great attention and satisfaction:*

*“Oh, dear Magic Boy, you are becoming so many interesting things already! But there are still many, many more things that a Magic Child can be! Let’s see if I can find a spot on which to go further with my plan.”*

*Around many stars atoms of all kinds had formed into swirling clouds and slowly shrunk into kind of big balls. They had become the stars’ planets, circling around it, each one on its own track. These planets were not burning like the stars - they were not big enough to take fire - so they couldn’t make light or heat by themselves like the stars, but they were getting some light and heat from the star they were circling around.*

*One star - the Sun -  
had quite a few planets circling nicely around it,  
one of them was just at the right distance from the  
Sun: not too close, but also not too far, and so that planet  
was not too hot,  
and not too cold either.*

*It was the Earth.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*In  
"The Magic Child"  
or  
"What happened Next on Earth"  
the story continues.*