



## **Chapter 16**

# **ALICE**

### ***Matthew 10: 29***

Not even a sparrow, worth only half a penny, can  
fall to the ground without your Father knowing it.

### **CREATION**

As the story of creation unfolds in Genesis describing how thoughtfully and skillfully God used His wisdom to form the world in which we live, a visual image of His mighty power appears to be directed by unending compassion throughout the process. One can almost feel the touch of His tender affectionate hands as He so gently brought the land, sky and water into being. Even now as we recount the happening, His abundant love that is so unfathomable for the human mind to grasp, can be dramatically felt as everything was set into motion and the first light of day appeared. He must have smiled and rejoiced at the sight of His incredible workmanship. The words from Genesis 1: 20-25 certainly describe His wisdom and compassion deeply intersecting as the living creatures and birds of the air were born into life.

At this point, it is incredibly easy to picture our God softly holding the first bird and rejoicing as melodious notes of its song playfully filled the air with intoxicating music. The words from Genesis 1: 25, "And God saw that it was good," verify His pride regarding all His accomplishments; which includes creating man in His own image.

Then, when totally satisfied with His work and granting His children dominion over everything He created, as caretakers, an enormous responsibility was just placed on our shoulders. This truly is our Father's world and we are here at His pleasure and for His purpose.

## DICK AS CARETAKER

When Dick Du Puis was but a mere lad, he was about his Father's business soaking in all God's workmanship while roaming the wet prairies in Gueydan, Louisiana. Thus, it was at a very early age that he fell deeply and hopelessly in love with all His Father's creatures throughout the world in which he lived.

Consequently, at his home, the area behind the garage served as a wonderful animal hospital for an array of creatures that needed Dick's healing touch. As a result, the outside wall of the garage was lined with cages of all sizes to accommodate the helpless and wounded.

Once, he even tenderly carried home a skunk he discovered along his path that was in danger of succumbing to injuries. Incredibly, as he nursed it back to health, Dick was the only person who could place food in its cage without getting sprayed. However, showing independence, it would turn its behind toward Dick, raise its tail in a show of importance and peer pointedly over its shoulder without ever taking action. Amazing, indeed!

Therefore, it was at this stage of Dick's life through offering compassion toward animals in need that he noted even the smallest sparrow had feelings. He soon learned to identify sadness, fear and joy by carefully observing their behavior.

Since the love and compassion Dick showed to all God's creatures continued throughout his life, these behavioral traits were automatically passed along to his children. Thus, it was a common occurrence to see them approach their dad tenderly holding a critically ill creature in their hands for him to heal.

Therefore, having nursed such an array of animals back to health, he had learned to concoct a variety of nutritional recipes to fit the needs of each species he treated. These formulas were based on the nutrients they would naturally receive in nature; with substitute ingredients only when necessary. Furthermore, since he provided as natural a habitat as possible for each animal in his care, the Du Puis backyard resembled a wildlife reservation.

## ALICE

Then, one day when driving down a street with her daughter, a lady hit and killed a squirrel crossing to the other side. Horrified, she stopped to move it to the side of the road and was startled by movement near the body. Quickly assessing the situation, she found it had been carrying a baby so young that its eyes were not yet open. Realizing the movement was coming from the baby, she gently placed it into her tissue in hopes it would survive. Sadly, when tenderly carrying it back to her car, she noticed its hind legs were crushed and its tail was almost severed.

In a state of panic, she rapidly drove to her own veterinarian's office requesting emergency assistance only to receive the news that the situation was hopeless. However, recognizing the lady's determination to secure care for the wounded baby squirrel, the veterinarian directed her to a man named Dick Du Puis who held a reputation for healing animals that were in a state of crisis.

Consequently, after receiving the little squirrel, Dick rushed to his own veterinarian for a second opinion only to hear the same diagnosis; plus the additional issue of a lower broken back.

**ALICE**

***IN THE PALM***



***OF DICK'S HAND***

Undaunted by the discouraging news, Dick gently carried the fragile baby home and immediately began feeding her with his special formula which caused her to show signs of life almost instantaneously. Unfortunately, realizing the additional movement meant she would cause further damage to her broken back, Dick proceeded to design a brace just her size using collar staves from a shirt to keep her quiet. He then padded a box that even had a heating pad in it and placed her on her back to keep her still. Then noticing her little belly was cold to the touch, he covered it with a warm blanket. However, in spite of the brace, she still found a way to move around, causing the blanket to slide off. This action prompted the designer in Dick to surface, resulting in the creation of a miniature poncho with a belted waistline that solved the problem.

## ***ALICE IN HER FIRST AND SECOND BRACE***



As a result, after receiving intensive care and wearing the brace for 6 weeks, that baby squirrel began to thrive. Also, as a part of the care plan during this time, Dick had learned to apply a warm cloth to her body which soon resulted in the little animal being potty trained.

Thus, after surviving many days of critical moments, Dick finally made the determination that, although permanently crippled due to crushed hind legs and minus a tail, it was time to celebrate this tiny creature's phenomenal progress.

Therefore, with great fanfare, it was decided this little miracle squirrel's name would be ALICE! Dressed in a beautiful pink gown Dick made for her, Alice was then placed in a new bed made from a plastic box that contained a matching mattress, pillow and blanket. As a show of happiness, she would lay in her bed entertaining herself for hours by playing with a special toy that was designed for her pleasure



## **DICK AND ALICE GIVING & RECEIVING LOVE.**

## ***ALICE IN HER NEW DIGS***



Then, one day Dick drove to his veterinarian's office and asked, "DO YOU REMEMBER THE LITTLE SQUIRREL YOU THOUGHT COULD NOT BE SAVED? HERE SHE IS! MEET ALICE!" The veterinarian absolutely flipped out and even wanted the brace and special formula recipes to use in his own practice.

Thus, as time went on, due to Alice's unique environment, the world in which her healer lived became her natural habitat. She literally behaved as if she were a human being rather than a squirrel. She learned to move around her little world by using just her front legs and could easily climb from floor to ceiling using the drapes as a tree trunk. She was friendly with birds, cats, and dogs, but absolutely hated other squirrels. Therefore, when enjoying the outside world by sitting on the window seal, she would angrily chatter at any squirrel that appeared within her vision. However, the greatest joy she displayed was when she was held in the arms of both adults and children; sitting contentedly for hours upon end.

Consequently, in time, news about Alice spread far and wide resulting in a shower of gifts arriving for her constantly. Recognizing Designer Du Puis would soon outfit her in his fabulous creations, one client even sent a miniature armoire lined with silk moray fabric, along with hangers for her dresses. Another client who lost one of her garnet earrings had the other one made into a necklace for Alice. Literally everyone who met Alice fell hopelessly in love with her kind and gentle spirit.



In fact, she was so cherished that Dick frequently took her to nursing homes and children's hospital wards for entertainment and inspiration. Since her personality was bigger than life itself, Alice, the little squirrel whose diagnosis had been death, possessed the ability to shower the downtrodden with such compassion and love that not only did she serve as an inspiration to others for overcoming hardship, but was appropriately named the miracle squirrel. Given the incredible story of Alice, it is no wonder, after looking upon His creation, God's words, ("It was good!") were proclaimed by Him as a show of praise and adoration for His handwork.



***DICK DRESSING ALICE IN THE CAR BEFORE VISITING  
NURSING HOME RESIDENTS***

# ALICE'S WARDROBE BY DU PUIS







***RELAXING!***



***SPRING FLING!***



***EASTER SUNDAY***





**WHAT MORE COULD A GIRL WANT?**





# LADY ALICE



***RED WOOL COAT WITH PERSIAN TRIM***

## ***SHARING SECRETS WITH SANTA***





## FINAL NOTE

When making the decision to retire and move closer to relatives in Arkansas, Dick made the difficult decision to leave Alice in the care of a wonderful friend, Paula, who was President of the Society for Rescuing Squirrels. He even became Vice President of the organization and wrote articles in their newsletter. Needless to say, the story of Alice was a favorite among the subscribers. Having worked closely with Paula as she saved the lives of many adult squirrels, he felt without doubt that Alice would be happy in her new home. After all, Alice had spent countless weekends under her care over the period of time she had regained her health. In fact, Paula would be so desirous of wanting to be in Alice's company that she would sometimes just go visit her for a few days.

Then, one day after Dick had relocated to his new home in Arkansas, he received the dreaded phone call that it was time for Alice to depart this earth. In order to comfort her, he spent 1 ½ hours on the phone speaking soft and gentle words in her ear as she passed to the great beyond. Alice had lived a full and happy life as an inspiration to others for fifteen wonderful years all because of the good Samaritan who choose to stop, accompanied by the compassionate heart and healing hands of Dick Du Puis.

