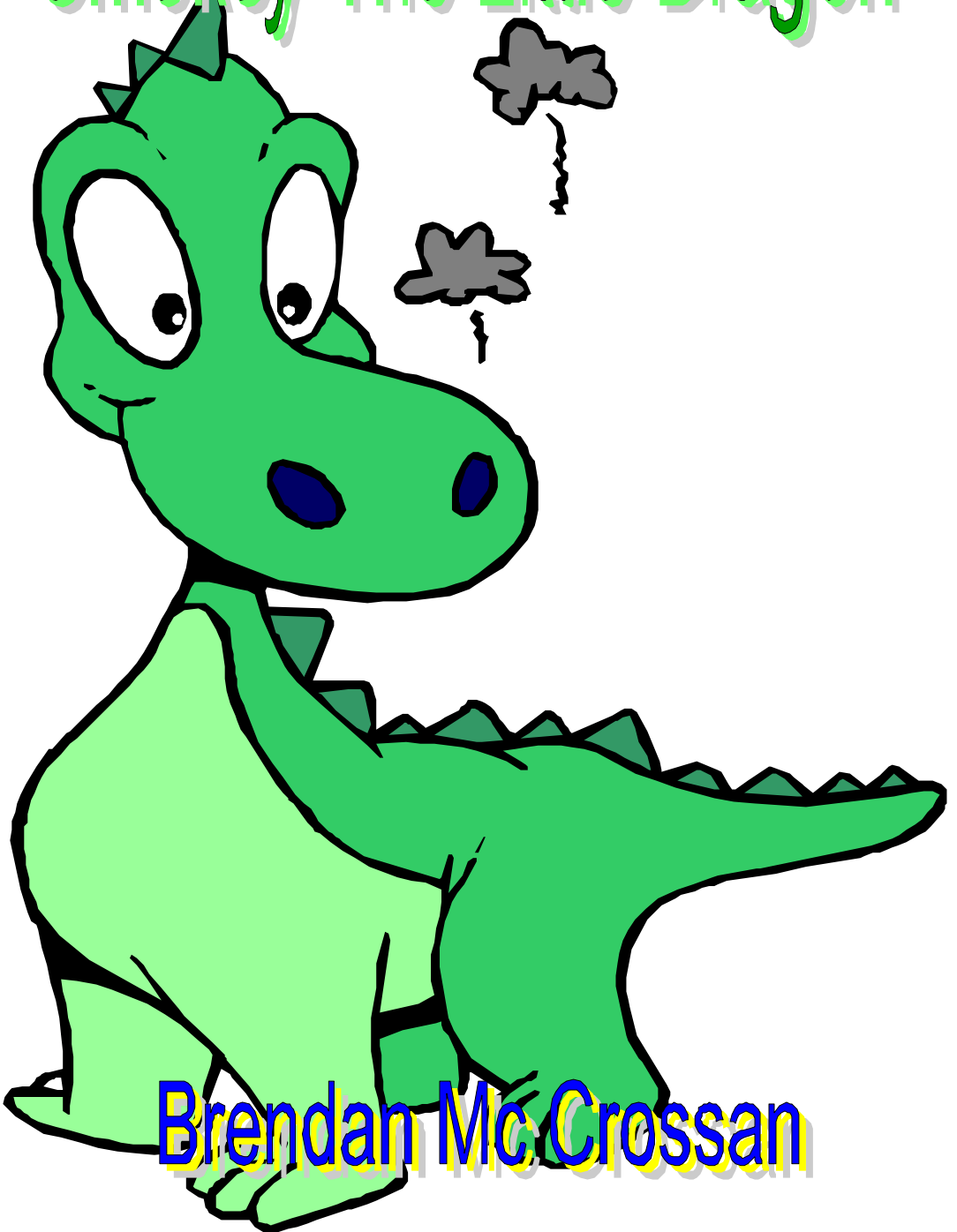


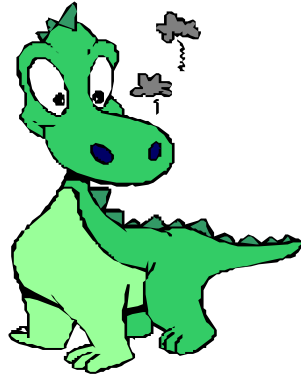
Smokey The Little Dragon



Brendan Mc Crossan

Smoky the little

Dragon



Smoky the little dragon was delighted to be told by his uncle that his little cousin was arriving from dragon land tomorrow. He had been feeling very lonely lately as most of the other creatures that lived in the forest ran away from him when they saw him. They did not know he was a quiet friendly little dragon who would not harm a fly.

Smoky had been out in the fields practicing with his fire breathing, and not doing so good either I might add. All he could produce was two puffs of smoke. But his great uncle, a mighty fire-breathing dragon encouraged him to keep on trying and he would soon master it someday.

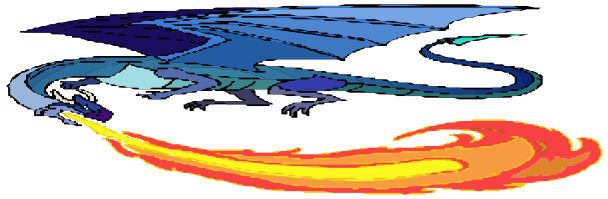
Next day he was delighted to be woken by the sound of his uncle calling him, telling him that his cousin had arrived. Introducing Smoky to his cousin Sparky he left the two boys to play together.



Can you breath fire yet? Smoky asked his cousin.

• Just a little bit, can you?• he replied.

No answered Smokey hanging his head down in shame.



Do not worry boys you will get the hang of it soon called great uncle Firebrand. Just take a deep breath and blow out, rasping your voice to make the spark to ignite your breath It's like growling with your mouth open. Just keep trying and you will succeed. And he roared off into the sky breathing fire as he flew away.

Later that evening when Smoky and Sparky had finished play, and returned home to their respective caves, Smoky knelt down in the privacy of his own little bedroom and began to pray. Dear God please help me to breath fire, all the other dragons can breath fire I am so embarrassed because I cant breath fire please help me And dear God, thank you for my cousin he is such a nice dragon

I bet you did not know that most dragons believed in God or that most dragons prayed.

But not all dragons were friendly, there are some who are just bad through and through, and these are the dragons that have got dragons a bad name. That is why knights hunt dragons and kill them. Unfortunately knights do not know the difference between good dragons and bad ones.

So the good dragons pray to God for protection from these knights, as they do not wish to harm them.

Chapter 2

An evil dragon arrives in the forest.

A mighty roar awaked Smoky, he jumped out of bed and looked outside the cave and what he saw made him quiver in his boots. He saw an awesome three-headed dragon that was blowing fire from all three heads. He was roaring that he was taking over the forest and that they had better not try to stop him.

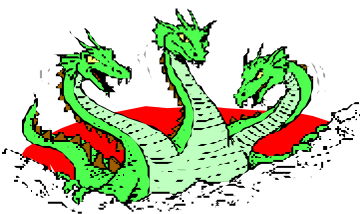
Merton the leader of the dragons in the forest stood up to him and said. I am the leader of the dragons in this forest and I say you will not take over this forest, go away and leave us alone we are peaceful dragons that live in peace with our human neighbours

The three headed dragon laughed at him and said. You will have to kill me if you wish to remain leader of these forest dragons, and he made a lunge at Merton, trying to bite his neck. Merton ducked aside and lunged back at the three-headed dragon, but missed.

They fought for hours, each attacking and retreating. Poor Merton was getting tired and was weakening, it was hard to

fight a three-headed dragon because he could see you from three different angles and you could not come up behind him without one of his heads seeing you.

All the other dragons were praying hard that Merton would win, but they did not have much faith in their prayers, because this three-headed dragon was much bigger than Merton and fiercer. Merton had always preached that God would take care of them so the dragons did not practice fighting skills. Seeing Merton getting weaker the dragons called for him to run away to save himself they did not want to see Merton killed. Thankfully Merton had enough sense to quit and fly away high into the sky with the three-headed dragon following him, but because he was so fat and heavy the three-headed dragon could not catch up with him, and so returned to take over the forest. Landing in a clearing the three-headed dragon shouted with glee then challenged. Does anyone else wish to try to fight me.? The forest dragons knew that if he beat Merton they would stand no chance against him and remained silent their heads bowed down in shame.



Seeing his uncle defeated Smoky came out from behind a tree stump and boldly called out, I will fight you, you big bully

But the three-headed dragon just laughed at Smoky and then brushed him aside with a sweep of his mighty spiked tail.

Tumbling over and over poor Smoky landed upside down among the trees far, far away.

Standing upright on his shaky legs Smoky called out to the three-headed dragon, I will be back



Going deep into the forest Smoky decided that he would go to seek God and ask God what could he do to defeat the three-headed dragon.

Finding a quiet secluded spot Smoky knelt down and prayed and prayed and prayed. His prayer was very sincere and came from his heart. Then he remained very still and waited on God to speak, and he did shortly.

I have heard your prayer, you will succeed, but not by power nor by might, but by my spirit' says the lord. Do what my Holy Spirit tells you, and you will succeed

'Thank you God, thank you I will obey.' Answered Smokey bowing his head in reverence.

Smokey heard the Holy Spirit say to him. Go out into a clearing and practice breathing fire again

Smoky being very obedient obeyed, and finding a clearing he practiced all day and into the next day, but all he does was blow smoke. He blew so much smoke that he could not see and had to wait until the wind blew the smoke away.

Day after day Smoky practiced breathing fire, long into the night he tried so hard. But his smoke just kept getting thicker and thicker until it was a large black cloud through which he himself could not see through.

Three weeks had passed and as Smoky practice breathing fire his little friend and cousin were being forced to carry baskets of fruit and other food to the three-headed dragon. He was treating everyone in the forest as slaves. Life under his rule was harsh. He ordered all the dragons to attack the villages around, commanding them to burn the houses down, and kill the villagers.

When the three headed dragon ordered his attacks on the village he chooses on the night before. The forest dragons always sent Sparky ahead of them to warn the villagers, telling them of the forthcoming attack and to hide in the forest.

The villagers made up dummies to look like people to fool the three headed dragon, so the forest dragons attacked these dummies first to prevent the three-headed dragon from seeing them properly and realise they were dummies.



One day the three-headed dragon changed his plans and decided to attack a different village from the one planned the night before. He had spied Sparky sneaking off into the forest after one of his meetings, and had followed him flying high in the sky so that Sparky would not see him. He seen Sparky enter a village and people come out to great him in friendly manner.

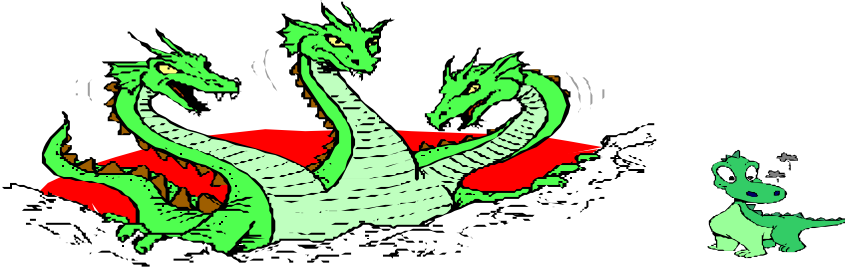
The three-headed dragon hissed in anger. So that is what is happening, I thought they were just a bit too eager to attack people first and burn them up I will show them' he growled shooting flame out from his mouth burning lots of trees up with his fiery breath.

The next morning as they were gathered together getting ready to attack, he announced his change of plan.

All the poor dragons were horrified, what could they do? All those humans would be killed and there was nothing they could do to save them so silently they prayed to God for help, and this time they all prayed sincerely from their dragon hearts. And God heard their prayer.

Chapter 3

Smoky returns and challenges the three-headed dragon.



You wicked dragon! You are evil! And now our God will destroy you for your wickedness The voice of Smoky boomed out through the silence. I challenge you to a fight to the death He said as he pushed his way through the crowd of forest dragons.

'Its Smokey,' said the forest dragons shocked by his sudden appearance, they thought he was dead. He had been flung that far into the forest by the three-headed dragons mighty tail and they had not seen him since.

My God and I challenge called Smoky, and My God will defeat you

'I am mightier than any so-called God' roared the three-headed dragon, flames shooting out from his mouth and almost burning up the dragons gathered around, they had to jump aside to avoid getting burned.

'I accept your challenge and the challenge of your so-called God he sneered,' clearing room for the battle with a sweep of his might spiked tail.

All the forest dragons scattered to make room for the two fighter's, their hearts were broken at the thought of what the three-headed dragon would do to poor Smokey.

As they squared up to each other little Smokey said a silent prayer asking the Holy Spirit what should he now do.

You see earlier in the morning the Holy Spirit told Smokey that he was now ready to fight the three-headed dragon and that he must obey his promptings and to listen closely and to ignore anything the three-headed dragon said to him and not to be afraid. The fight would be won, not by power nor by might but by the Holy Spirits power. Smoky protested to the Holy Spirit saying he still cannot make fire, but the Holy Spirit insisted he was ready.

Start making fire prompted the voice of the Holy Spirit. So Smoky tried as hard as he could to breathe fire but all he could do was create smoke and lots of it, thick black smoke, which made it difficult for everyone to see.

How the three-headed dragon laughed. Tears running down his eyes he laughed so hard.

This is how to do it' he called sneeringly to Smoky, and sent a sheet of flame right at Smoky who just managed to avoid it, his little tail getting signed.

Flying into the air Smokey tried harder and harder to breath fire but all he could do was continue to make smoke. The air was filled with dense thick black smoke.

The Holy Spirit told Smokey to make an attack at one head of the three-headed dragon. So flying right at him Smoky threw himself into the attack, trying as hard as he could to breath fire and still only smoke came. He expected the Holy Spirit to ignite his little fire within him but the Holy Spirit did not do this. Smoky was flying in among the dragon's three heads and every time he tried to attack him the three headed dragon saw him and snapped at him. Smoky just kept attacking and blowing smoke until there was nothing to see anymore the air was so filled with smoke.

Now Smoky attack his middle head' commanded the Holy Spirit.

But I can't see him,' cried Smokey in despair.

'No!' 'But you can just follow the sound of my voice and do as I tell you.'

'So Smokey swallowing hard flew into the air to where the Holy Spirit voice was directing him. Thinking that the Holy Spirit was at last lighting his fire he tried harder to make a flame, but all that came was blacker smoke. Ignoring his fear he flew upwards and onwards encouraged by the Holy Spirit. Suddenly he felt himself bumping against the three-headed dragon, and lashed out as hard as he could with his fists and hit the dragon on the nose in his middle head.

Letting out a mighty roar the three-headed dragons heads snaked around and made an attempt to bite Smoky, his mouths wide open teeth bared in his other two heads, and they made a mighty lunge at Smoky, but there was so much smoke that they missed and sank into his middle head and thinking this was

Smoky they bit down as hard as they could tearing the head off his own body.

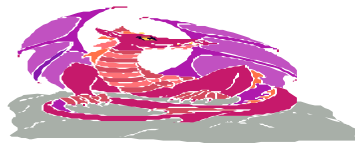
The three-headed dragon let out a roar of pain as he realised too late he bit his own head off, then losing blood fast he weakened and sank down to his knees, he was dying, and was thrashing about wildly still trying to kill Smoky. With his dying breath he gnashed and bit into empty air trying desperately to get little Smoky before he died, but Smoky had been directed by the Holy Spirit to fly out of harms way and to hover in this smoke filled area and wait, until he told him it was safe.

Smoky only too gladly obeyed wondering what was happening to the three-headed dragon because he still could not see through the impenetrable smoke but he could hear him roaring and screaming and thrashing about. Then he heard him getting weaker and weaker, then with a might crash Smoky heard the body of the three-headed dragon fall to the ground, and he knew that the three-headed dragon was dead.

He finally stopped trying to breath fire and waited a long while until all the smoke finally blew away.

All the forest dragons were crying, they thought that Smoky had been killed and that it was poor Smoky making those roaring death noises.

Everyone looking on were shocked when the smoke cleared and they saw that little Smoky was standing on top of the mighty three-headed dragon's body, with his hands raised to heaving, giving thanks and praise to God for his Holy Spirit.



Seeing his alive they gave a mighty roar of gladness, and rushed over to him and lifted him on their shoulders and

paraded him through the forest cheering and laughing and praising him for his heroism.

Chapter 4

Smokey tells everyone how he defeated the three-headed dragon.

'Friends' Smokey began. Why look at me like I performed this mighty deed It was not I who defeated the three-headed dragon but it was the Holy Spirit in answer to our prayers' Sure I am much too small to defeat such a mighty dragon But this dragon fought against our God and claimed he was mightier than God God through the Holy Spirit showed him who was the mightier and slew this great evil beast with his own heads The Holy Spirit told me what to do,' he continued, and I simply obeyed but it was the Holy Spirit who killed the three-headed dragon. So let us all bow down and worship him giving thanks and praise for delivering us from the evil three-headed dragon. All the dragons in the forest and all the villagers fell down on their knees and worshiped God for their deliverance from the evil dragon.

After they had finished worshipping God, one forest dragon slapped Smoky on the back saying. I still think you are a hero But not realising his strength and in his enthusiasm he slapped Smoky a little too hard making Smoky cough, and as Smoky coughed a little flame shot out of his mouth.

My Goodness' gasped Smoky, I just breathed fire, did you see that,' he asked the dragon who slapped him on the back.

Indeed I did sure you are a grand fire breathing dragon he declared. Full of the Holy Spirit And away he went declaring that Smoky was a great little dragon.

Making sure that no one else was around Smoky decided to try again, and said. Please Holy Spirit help me breath fire again Taking a deep breath and growling slightly from the back of his throat. And with his mouth opened he blew a mighty flame of fire. He was delighted; at last he felt that he was a complete dragon. He was so very happy.

And he was happier even still when who should meet him as he approached his cave, none other than great uncle Merton, who had recovered from his injuries and who had come back to finish his fight with the three-headed dragon.

There was no one more shocked or delighted than Merton to discover that his little nephew had defeated the mighty three-headed dragon. And no one more pleased to learn that his little nephew had sought the help of the Holy Spirit.

When the villagers and forest dragons saw Merton they cheered with all their might, slapping him on the back and expressing their delight at seeing him again. They were glad also that he did not have to fight the three-headed dragon because he came back to fight it to the death.

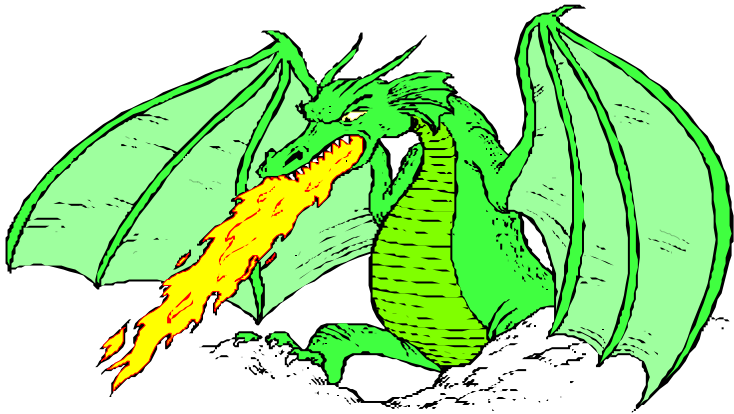
As Smoky grew up he learned to trust the Holy Spirit in everything, and he never attempted anything without first

asking the Holy Spirit who always gave him direction and which he always obeyed. He grew up to become a great leader of the forest dragons and even his fiery breath became a legend in its time. He could roast a chestnut at 500 yards, the furthest anyone ever could do.

Remember reader. If you seek the Holy Spirits help, and then wait on him in silence, he will give you all the wisdom and help you will ever need. You never know you could learn to breath fire also.

The End

Smoky 800 years old.



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