

Christmas on a tropical island



For our Christmas story, this time we're going to a relatively remote part of the world, a small island called Futuna, somewhere in the vastness of the Southern Pacific Ocean. Years ago, the following story happened on this remote South Sea island:

It was in the last days of Advent. Outside there was a gentle breeze of salty sea air, like every day. The thermometer showed about 28 ° C in bright sunshine. The people of the island went about their daily business, which, according to Western standards, gave them a low income, but they could not complain

about real stress. It was just a pretty contemplative and manageable world. If you like, a little paradise.

On a hill, under some palm trees, the school was located where the few students listened more or less to the teacher. Since, as already said, Christmas will happen in just a few days, the teacher tells the Christmas story of the Holy Scripture. The story was a little bit more adapted for the children. And among other things, they came to a subsequent discussion on the custom, „Why is it common to give others a present?“. The teacher explained: "The gifts of Christmas should recall to us the love of God. He has sent his son to us for our salvation. The son of God is the greatest gift for all humanity. With mutual gifts, the people want to show their love and that they want to live in peace together." The children went home after class and some still thought about the teacher's story and words.

The next day, the day before the Christmas holidays, one of the more quiet children came to the teacher during the break, who sat in the shade under a palm tree. Carefully, she opened a small bag in her robe, took out a shell and gave it to the teacher. The shell was of exquisite beauty. Never before had she seen something more beautiful washed ashore by the sea.

„Where did you find this beautiful and precious shell?“ she asked. The child got a smile on her face, and became excited joyful about the visible joy that the teacher expressed. After this moment of joy, she told the teacher: „There is only one hidden place on Solama, the neighboring island where you can sometimes find such a shell. Sometimes I have to accompany my father for fishing. If the waves become high he puts me on the island for a while. During this time of waiting I look for some rare shells in the little bays.“

"She's just magical," said the teacher. "I will keep her for life and never forget you. But you should not take so much effort and dangers just to give me a present."

With bright eyes, the child said, "You have to know, the efforts to look for and to achieve the gift are a part of the gift."



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*May all of you have a holy and peaceful Christmas and
with the help of God everything may prosper that each of
you begin in the New Year.*