



Young George and the Baby Dragon

by Melisa Nielsen

Once there was a gnome village that was plagued by a big fire breathing dragon baby. The dragon baby was much bigger than the gnomes and they were afraid of him. They were not sure what to do so one day two of the bravest gnomes went to the gnome king for a meeting. The gnome king said he had a human friend named George who promised to help them whenever the gnomes were in need all he would have to do is raise a white flag with a red cross on it.

The gnomes were surprised that the king would have a human friend since so many humans had stopped believing in gnomes. The king said that once when George was very young he had gotten lost in the woods while picking berries and sat down on a log to cry. The gnome king was just a plant gnome at the time and he felt badly for George and because George had a pure heart he still believed in the garden folk, George was able to see the king. The king helped him find his way home and George told him that if he ever needed help to raise the signal.

The gnomes raised the signal and soon a young man on a handsome white horse came through the forest to the flag. The gnome king was there to greet George. George bowed as is custom before royalty. The gnome king was so glad to see George, he told him of the gnome's plight. George was a good and kind young man, he promised to do what he could to find the dragon.

Two days passed, on the morning of the third day the gnomes saw George and with him was the baby dragon wearing a muzzle so his fire could not come out. Steam kept rising from the dragon's nostrils and he coughed and gagged. George explained that the dragon had the hiccups and was coming to see the gnomes for a cure but every time he got near, he would breathe fire with each hiccup. The gnome king got out his healing crystal and touched the poor beast on his nose and *poof* no more baby dragon hiccups! The dragon was so excited he flew up in the air and did summersaults!

When the dragon came back down to earth he asked the gnomes how he could ever repay them, he asked if he could live there in the wood and help protect and nurture the earth. The gnome king said he would be delighted and also if the dragon if he would help them bake bread each week. The dragon agreed. They all lived happily until their next adventure.