

BENEDICT

SIDE 1

CIRILLA and BENEDICT are together in their small Enfide dwelling. Suddenly there's a loud CRASH!

CIRILLA

(upset)

Oh no, look what I've done-Alba loaned me her sieve and I broke it!

BENEDICT

(getting up from his chair, where he's been writing, and coming over)

Perhaps it can be mended.

CIRILLA

(picking up the pieces, crying)

But even if we mended it she will know I broke it.

BENEDICT

Can I see the pieces?

CIRILLA

(handing them to him)

Here.

(sniffling)

What am I going to do?!

BENEDICT

First of all, Cirilla, stop your crying. Let's turn to the Lord and ask his intervention.

CIRILLA

Yes, dearest Benedict, but it will still be broken!

BENEDICT

(holding the pieces, bowing his head over them, and praying)

Dear Lord, Cirilla has accidentally broken this beautiful earthenware sieve which her friend loaned to her. Please mend what is broken and heal all that needs healing. In Jesus' name, Amen.

CIRILLA

Amen.

BENEDICT is silent a moment, just holding the sieve

CIRILLA

I will simply tell Alda the truth and beg her forgiveness.

(Still praying over the sieve, BENEDICT doesn't reply)

Master Benedict, what are you doing?

BENEDICT still doesn't answer. Finally:

BENEDICT

(opening his eyes and inspecting the sieve)

No need for apologies. Just thank her for the use of the sieve.

CIRILLA

But I have to apologize. What do you mean?

BENEDICT

(handing her the mended sieve)

Here...

CIRILLA

(beginning to cry again, this time tears of joy)

What? What?! How can this be? There's no break where it
dropped...

BENEDICT

The Lord is gracious and merciful.

CIRILLA

Yes, I know he is, but...how did this happen? How was it made
whole again?

BENEDICT

We asked the Lord and he answered us.

CIRILLA

It's a miracle! Wait until Alda hears what happened!

BENEDICT

No, Cirilla. I don't want you to tell her. I don't want you to tell anyone.

CIRILLA

Not tell anyone about a miracle?

BENEDICT

That's right. Let it be just between you and me and the Lord. Because it was him that made it whole, not me. But people will draw the wrong conclusions.

CIRILLA

I can't tell *anyone*?

BENEDICT

No one. Promise me, Cirilla.

CIRILLA

(softly, sadly)

All right. I promise.

BENEDICT

Thank you. Now, what are we having for dinner? I'm hungry.