

THE TICKLISH BOY

PETE SPARKS WAS A SENSITIVE BOY. SO SENSITIVE THAT EVEN HIS HAIR WAS TICKLISH. YOU ONLY HAD TO TOUCH HIS HAIR A LITTLE BIT AND HE WOULD BURST OUT LAUGHING.

SO PETE GREW UP GETTING USED TO STRANGE SITUATIONS. WINDY DAYS WERE THE WORST, HE WOULD LAUGH WHENEVER THE BREEZE BLEW ON HIS LOCKS WHICH WERE QUITE LONG BECAUSE AT THE BARBER SHOP, NO ONE COULD MANAGE TO CUT HIS HAIR SINCE HE DIDN'T STOP LAUGHING.

TO SEE PETE LAUGH WAS VERY CONTAGIOUS. WHEN PETE STARTED TO FEEL TICKLISH, EVERYONE ENDED UP LAUGHING WITH HIM.

AS PETE GREW UP, PEOPLE STARTED TO BAN HIM FROM CERTAIN PLACES BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT PETE'S LAUGHTER WAS ANNOYING.

SO PETE TRIED EVERYTHING TO STOP HIS TICKLISHNESS. HE TRIED IN HATS, USED HAIRSPRAY, HE SHAVED HIS HEAD AND HE EVEN WENT TO YOGA TO LEARN TO RELAX HIMSELF.

BUT NOTHING WORKED. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE. HE WANTED TO JUST BE A NORMAL BOY. SO, AS THE TIME WENT ON, HE BEGAN TO FEEL SAD FOR BEING DIFFERENT.

ONE DAY HE MET A SPECIAL CLOWN. THE CLOWN WAS VERY OLD AND COULD HARDLY WALK.

BUT WHEN HE SAW PETE WAS SAD, HE WENT TO CHEER HIM UP. IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG
TO MAKE PETE LAUGH, AND THEY STARTED TO TALK.

PETE TOLD HIM ABOUT HIS TICKLISH PROBLEM, AND HE ASKED THE CLOWN HOW SUCH AN OLD MAN COULD CARRY ON BEING CLOWN. "I HAVE NO ONE TO REPLACE ME", SAID THE THE CLOWN, "AND I HAVE A VERY SERIOUS JOB TO DO." PETE LOOKED AT HIM, SURPRISED, AND THOUGHT "SERIOUS? A CLOWN?", TRYING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THE OLD MAN HAD TOLD HIM.

"COME, I'LL SHOW YOU", SAID THE CLOWN. THE CLOWN TOOK PETE ALL OVER THE CITY,



TO MANY HOSPITALS,

ORPHANAGES,

REFUGES,

ALL WERE FULL OF CHILDREN WHO WERE SICK, OR ORPHANED, CHILDREN WITH SERIOUS PROBLEMS.

BUT SOON AS THEY SAW THE CLOWN THEIR FACES LIT UP WITH A SMILE. AND THAT WAS A SPECIAL DAY, BECAUSE IN EVERY SHOW THE CLOWN PERFORMED, PETE'S TICKLISHNESS WOULD SHOW UP AND THE KIDS WOULD BURST OUT LAUGHING TOO.

WHEN THE VISIT ENDED, THE OLD CLOWN TOLD PETE "NOW DO YOU SEE WHAT A SERIOUS JOB IT IS? THAT'S WHY I CAN'T RETIRE, EVEN AT MY AGE." "IT'S TRUE", ANSWERED PETE "NOT EVERYONE COULD DO IT, YOU HAVE TO BE VERY FUNNY." THEN THE WIND AGAIN MADE PETE LAUGH VERY LOUD.

AND THAT'S HOW PETE BECAME A CLOWN, AND REPLACED THE OLD CLOWN. AND FROM THAT DAY FORWARD, PETE WAS HAPPY THAT HE WAS DIFFERENT, THANKS TO HIS SPECIAL GIFT.