

# *The Dragon Princess*

*Reg Down*  
© Copyright 2015

*All rights reserved. No part of this publication, in part or in whole may be reproduced, transmitted or utilized in any form, without the permission of the author, except for brief quotations in critical articles and reviews.*

There was once a princess who harbored a three-headed dragon. The first head was red and breathed fire, the second head was blue and breathed ice and frost, the third head was gray and foul mists and winds came forth from its mouth. Before she was born the princess has betrothed to a prince who himself was merely a child. They grew up never knowing each other except as a name.

Years passed, and when the princess had come of age she was sent away to be married. The morning after the wedding the prince woke to find wounds on his body. He had them dressed and bound and wondered greatly. The next morning was the same, and the one after that. By now, everyone knew that something was wrong for the wounds could no longer be hidden. The prince decided to stay awake at any cost, and that night he lay wide-eyed and sleepless. At midnight the dragon emerged from the princess's back and immediately began to claw and bite him. He struggled and fought, but was no match for the dragon. Finally, as the sky began to lighten and the stars to fade, the dragon slipped into the princess and was gone.

The prince resolved to wear armor and carry a sword when he went to bed. That night he lay awake, forcing himself to keep his eyes open. At midnight the dragon emerged. The prince sprang up and a mighty battle ensued. Every time his armor fended him from harm, every time his sword bit into the monster's body the dragon became larger and more fierce. Finally he cut the dragon's fiery head off. Immediately the beast slipped inside the princess's sleeping body and was gone.

The next night was the same. The prince battled with the dragon fiercely and in the end cut off its blue and icy head. The third night the greatest battle took place. Now the dragon was formless and gray and its breath foul. The prince swung his sword and struck nothing but mist and fog, yet the dragon's claws and teeth were as sharp and dangerous as ever. He

was almost overwhelmed when the first ray of sunlight fell upon the dragon's body. At once the prince saw where the gray head lay and cut it off with a single blow. A sudden wind blew through the room and the growing sunlight dissolved the dragon's body until nothing was left at all.

The princess, who had always been pale and wan, awoke with rosy cheeks. She spoke, and all harshness had left her voice. She arose, and the ugliness that lurked behind her eyes was gone. Only then did the marriage of the prince and the princess begin in earnest. They were happy and had three children: the first born was a leader of men, the second born was a singer with the most beautiful voice, and the third born was so wise that whatever she touched turned to gold.