

MD 2006



The Legend of the Christmas Spider

This legend is found in both Germany and in the Ukraine.

Once upon a time, long ago, a mother was busily cleaning the house for the most wonderful day of the year..... the day on which the Christ child come to bless the house.



Not a speck of dust was left. Even the spiders had been banished from their cosy corner in the ceiling. To avoid the housewife's busy cleaning they had finally fled to the furthest corner of the attic.

It was Christmas eve at last! The tree was decorated and waiting for the children to see it. But the poor spiders were frantic, for they could not see the tree or be present for the Christ child's visit.



But the oldest and wisest spider suggested that perhaps they could peep through the crack in the door. Silently, they crept out of their attic, down the stairs, and across the floor to wait in the crack in the threshold. Suddenly, the door opened a tiny bit and quickly the spiders scurried into the room.



They must see the tree closely, since their eyes weren't accustomed to the brightness of the room. So they crept all over the tree, up and down, over every branch and twig and saw every one of the pretty things on it..



At last they satisfied themselves completely of the Christmas tree's beauty. But alas! Everywhere they went had left their webs!



When the little Christ child came to bless the house he was dismayed.

He loved the little spiders, for they were God's creatures too.



But he knew the mother, who had decorated the tree for little children, wouldn't feel the same, so he touched the webs and they all turned to sparkling, shimmering silver and gold.



Ever since that time, we have hung tinsel on our Christmas trees and according to the legend, it has become a custom to put a spider among the decorations on the tree.....

