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## The Voyage to Aslan's Country

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December 28th, 2010, I went to The Edmonds Theater to see C.S. Lewis's third novel, *Voyage of the Dawn Treader* in a movie format.



The story begins when Edmund and Lucy had just arrived at their Uncle Harold's House at a country village in England. Their parents in were in America for several months.

Eustace did not like his cousins but since they were visitors he felt he would enjoy bullying them. In fact, he didn't like all four of the Pevensies – including Peter and Susan who fortunately were not with them.

Lucy and Edmund stole away to a room upstairs to speak privately to one another. They had been to Narnia twice before and like to talk about their exciting adventures. Eustace barged in the room and said, "Oh there you are talking about that imaginary fairytale place Narnia. What a waste of time!"

"Come in Eustace. We were admiring the picture of the ship on the wall that looks like it is coming directly toward the observer."

Eustace said to Lucy, "What do you like about it?"

"It looks so real and inviting," said Lucy. "As I look at it, the waves seem to be coming out of the picture toward me. Oh, water just splashed in my face," she said.

### ENTERING NARNIA

From then on the water came into the room and soon they were swimming in an ocean. All three were able to surface to the top of the water. As they looked up they saw the same schooner that was in the picture. The front of the ship looked like the face and mouth of a dragon. Men were diving off the ship to come to them. Pretty soon Lucy felt someone put his arm under her. Men were throwing ropes down for them. Eustace was complaining as usual and said he wanted to go home. Edmund helped to rescue his younger cousin. Eventually they were all on deck.

The ship's owner, Caspian, the boy king of Narnia, greeted the three children. When Lucy recognized him from other voyages, she was so excited. They had so much to talk about but eventually Lucy sneezed. Caspian said, "Excuse me, I'm sorry. I will order some hot-spiced cider and give you some dry clothes to change into. Let me show you to your quarters.

They gathered back to visit and drink cider. A ship's mate brought the drinks and said, "Spiced cider for their Majesties." He addressed Edmund and Lucy that way because they, and Peter and Susan, had been kings and queens of Narnia years before in "Narnia Time."

Eustace burst out with, "Ooh get that creature, that rat away from me."

It was a rat but he walked on his hind legs, and stood two feet high. A band of gold on his head held a long red feather. One hand was on the hilt of his small, sharp sword.

Edmund and Lucy recognized Reepicheep, the valiant talking beast. He was very cordial to the royalty who had joined them.

This evening began a battle between Reepicheep and Eustace. In fact, the talking rat challenged the weakling English chap into several duels. Reepicheep, with the help of the hanging ropes, would fly through the air when Eustace would come after him with his much larger sword. In time, Reepicheep did a lot to help Eustace become a caring person.

### DRAGONISH THINKING

In the next few days the "Dawn Treader" was passing an island that looked like a good place to have an adventure.

Eustace meanwhile wandered off by himself and unbeknownst to him discovered a dragon's lair of jewels, diamonds, and gold. Even though he saw a cadaver lying on the ground, he still decided he would collect as much wealth as he could carry.

As he did this and fell asleep, Eustace turned into the dragon himself. It took some time for him to discover it. Dragonish thinking can lead one astray.

In his desperation, Aslan the Lion, encountered Eustace and helped to peel off several deep layers of dragon scales until the real boy could be seen again.

### ASLAN'S COUNTRY

Many other adventures took place but the story ends, as it was time to return to the children's world.

Reepicheep was the only one who was allowed to go to Aslan's Country beyond the end of the world. He laid down his sword on the beach, got into his nut shaped coracle, and was lifted up on the 30-foot waterfall like wave, disappearing quickly.

"Aslan," said Lucy "When can we come back?"

He gently growled out the words, "Dearest you are getting too old for Narnia, you must get closer to your own world now."

Lucy sobbed, "The real reason we want to be in Narnia is to be with you, Aslan."

"I will be with you where ever you are. There you must learn to know me by another name."

He opened up a door in the sky. They felt a lion's mane and a kiss on their foreheads, and they were back home.

### METAPHOR'S SPEAK

Many metaphors in the movie spoke to me, and also to my friend, Patricia.

I felt rather silly to have tears when the children and Aslan were saying goodbye to Reepicheep who was joyfully leaving on his final voyage.

I was thinking about my brother, Bill, Dr. Reed, retired cancer surgeon who was hit by a 2007 Toyota pickup in Tampa this Christmas Eve as he crossed the street. He never regained consciousness.

He was a great Christian leader. I will miss our conversations about our Narnia, called Heaven, and our Aslan, called Jesus Christ. It hurts, but we will meet again . . .

Lewis, C.S., *Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, (Collier Books, New York, 1970). Article, *Voyage to Aslan's Country*, Adapted, 2010.

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