

THE SUN AND THE JEALOUS MOON

Retold by Alice Jacobson

Once upon a time, on the fourth day of creation to be exact, God created the Sun and the Moon. He made them exactly alike. They were the same size and shone with the same amount of light. The Sun shined during the day, and the Moon shined during the night. The night was just as bright as day, and the sky was always blue and filled with light. Everything would have gone on like this, even to this day, if the Moon had done as she was told and not become jealous of the Sun.

One night as the Moon rode through the shining sky, she looked upon the earth beneath her and began to think, "It really isn't quite fair to me to have to follow the Sun around all the time. In the morning he starts on his course, pouring out his beams with a mighty fire. All things stir and raise their heads and salute him. Birds sing when he appears, animals call a greeting to him, even the flowers of the field turn their faces to him as he passes by. Then when the day is done, what happens?! Here I come, every bit as beautiful and strong and brilliant as the Sun, but by that time the earth is too tired to greet me. In spite of my brightness, the birds and beasts creep away into the shadows and sleep the night away. The flowers close the petals over their faces and never even look at me. What's the use of being so grand if there's no one awake to admire me? If only that nuisance, the Sun, wouldn't shine so brightly in the daytime!"

The Moon sighed as she sailed across the heavens. At last she said, "I think I'll have to see God, the Great Master, about this."

As soon as her journey ended, the Moon went to the Great Master and bowed low before His throne. "Oh, Great Master," said the Moon, "I have come to ask a few questions."

"Speak on, oh glowing Moon," said the Great Master.

"Is it not true," said the Moon, "that you have created Heaven and Earth, and that the Heavens are much greater and finer and more beautiful than the Earth?"

"Yes," answered the Great Master, "Yes, that is true."

"And," said the Moon, "you have made fire and water. The fire can devour and burn everything that comes within its reach, but water is even more powerful than fire, because water can drown and quench the fire. Is that not true?"

"Yes, that is true," answered the Great Master.

The Moon replied, "Then why must there be two great lights just exactly alike? Wouldn't it be better to have only one great light, and a smaller light?"

The Great Master looked at the Moon and said, "Perhaps you would like the Sun to lose some of his brightness. Is that it?"

"Well, yes," said the Moon. "That would be nice."

"Go back to your place," said the Great Master, "and be assured that from now on there will be a great light and a lesser light."

The Moon was very happy. All day long she stayed in her place, waiting until the Sun finished his daily travels, and imagining how surprised the earth creatures would be when she came out even more radiant than the Sun.

As the Sun began to set, the Moon rose in all her glory, prepared to dazzle the world. She rose

high into the heavens. “How fine I must be,” she thought as she looked downward to see how the earth creatures were taking her new appearance. Great was her surprise to find everything just as usual. The birds were tucking their heads under their wings, and the flowers were folding up their petals.

The Moon became a little worried. She thought that she might be too high up in the sky, so she slipped a little closer to the earth. As she did, she noticed something strange—the beasts had not crept away to the shadows to rest as usual, but were sleeping right in the open fields. Now the Moon was really frightened. She slid nearer and nearer to the earth. The only sound she could hear was the regular breathing of sleeping animals, and the drowsy twittering of baby birds in their nests.

Then the Moon cried out, “Oh, Great Master, what has happened? Here I am, bigger and finer than ever, and no one pays the slightest attention to me!”

“Foolish Moon,” answered the Great Master. “Don’t you see that you are the lesser light, and not the greater one? Look around you! Do you light up the whole heavens as you once did?”

For the first time, the Moon realized what had happened. She had become small and pale and weak; so weak that she could scarcely shine. She stretched out her beams as far as she could, but they only made soft glimmerings through the tree tops.

“Oh, Great Master,” wept the Moon, “I know now that I was greedy and should not have tried to take some of the brilliance from the Sun. But must I lose all my fire and my beauty because of one little fault?”

As the Moon stopped talking, suddenly in the silence she could hear the Great Master’s voice saying, “Oh, Moon, because now you are sorry for being jealous of the Sun, I will not let you go alone into the dark night with so pale a light. Then down through the skies came God’s powerful hand. He held a pair of large pointed scissors. He took hold of the Moon’s long silvery robes, and from the tiny threads of her garments He formed hundreds of thousands of stars.

“Oh, look at the stars! How lovely they are,” cried the Moon. “The stars You have made are beautiful. See how they twinkle!”

Then God said to the Moon, “Every night when you shine in the sky, these hundreds of thousands of stars will be your companions.”

The Moon replied, “Oh, thank you, Great Master, for these shining friends”

She looked around at all the glowing, gleaming stars, and when they twinkled at her, the Moon beamed with a happy smile.

Source Materials: *Grandfather’s Big Book* by Calisch. Published by Behrman House, 1951. *Bible Legend Book* by Freehoff. Published by UAHC, 1948.

Moon & Stars Soft Sculpture

DIRECTIONS:

Moon

1. Cut out pattern of moon.
2. Fold piece of white material in half, shiny sides of material together.
3. Pin the moon pattern to the folded white material. Cut out.
4. Place the two crescent moon pieces of material together (shiny sides facing each other on the inside).
5. Sandwich the fringe trim between the moon pieces. The looped part of the fringe should be located at the bottom outside edge. The fringe will dangle inside the moon. Pin pieces together. (Refer to Diagram #1.)
6. Sew along the edge of the moon leaving a 3/8" seam. Do not sew entirely around the moon. Leave an opening of about 2" near the top outside edge of the moon. The opening is necessary for stuffing the moon. Sew through the looped part of the trim. Try not to get the dangly fringe caught in a seam. (Refer to Diagram #2.)
7. Turn the moon right side out. Use a scissors or pin to poke out the corners of the crescent. The fringe should dangle from the bottom of the moon.
8. Stuff the moon with polyester fiberfill, or old hosiery, etc.
9. Use an overstitch to stitch closed the 2" opening in the moon.

Stars:

1. Cut out the star pattern.
2. Trace the pattern onto the silver side of one of the silver squares.
3. Place a second silver square behind the square with the traced star. (White sides facing each other on the inside; silver side on the outside.)
4. Sew along the traced star using a zig-zag sewing machine stitch. Or sew by hand using an overstitch or a blanket stitch. Leave one point of the star open. (Refer to Diagram #3.)
5. Stuff the star with polyester fiberfill.
6. Finish stitching the star with the zig-zag stitch.
7. Cut out the star along the outside edge of the stitching.
8. Repeat the same procedure for the second star.



Do not sew point until filled.

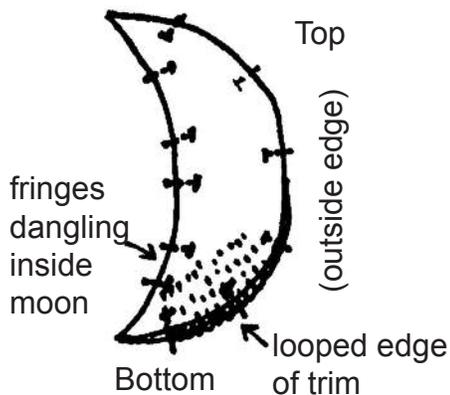


Diagram #1

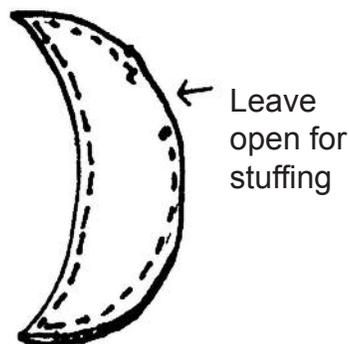


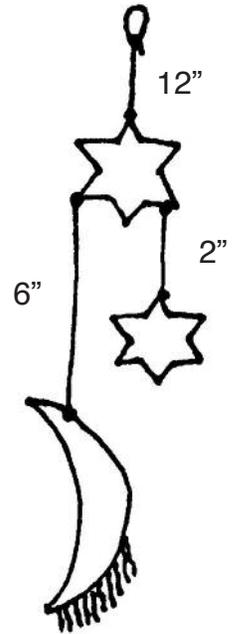
Diagram #2



Diagram #3
Finished Product

Directions for Making the Mobile

1. Thread the plastic thread through a needle.
2. Knot one end of the thread.
3. Stitch the connecting point on the moon with a few overstitches.
4. Pull needle through the soft sculpture moon. Then pull needle through soft sculpture star at its connecting point.
5. Measure the thread in order to leave the proper distance of 6" between the moon and star.
6. Top stitch a few times. Knot. Cut off excess thread.
7. Follow the same procedure for attaching the two soft sculpture stars.
8. Attach a piece of thread to the top point of the uppermost star. Tie a loop at the top of the thread for hanging the mobile.



ALTERNATIVES TO MACHINE STITCHING THE SOFT-SCULPTURES:

1. Use a back stitch and sew by hand.
2. Use a fusible bonding material such as "Stitch Witchery" to bond the pieces together.
3. Use Sobo Fabric Glue around the edges to bond the pieces together.

General Directions: Cut out two pieces of the soft sculpture shape. Cut out one shape from the Stitch Witchery. Place the Stitch Witchery between the two pieces of material. The shiny side of the material should be facing out. Place a press cloth over the material to be ironed. With a hot iron, press AROUND THE EDGES of the soft sculpture material pieces. Be careful to press just the edges since any heat to the rest of the material will adhere the two fabric pieces together and the sculpture can not then be stuffed. Refer to the specific directions of the stars and moon for further information on leaving an opening for stuffing. **Star:** When ironing the edges of the star, leave one point open. Stuff with a small amount of fiberfill. Press the last point of the star closed. **Moon:** Insert the fringe trim on the lower edge of the moon. The loops will be along the edge and the fringe will dangle inside. A small piece of Stitch Witchery must be added to bond the trim to the other side of the moon. Leave a 2" opening when pressing the edges. Stuff with polyester fiberfill. Press the rest of the edge closed.