

How Anthony Chased Away the Grumpy Clouds



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Once upon a time, in a beautiful golden desert, there lived a young boy named Anthony. Anthony loved Jesus very much. He wanted to stay very close to Him, so he went to live in a small, quiet cave to pray every day, far from the noise of the world.

Every morning and every evening, he spoke to Jesus like his best friend:
“Jesus, I love You! Jesus, stay with me!”

But sometimes, little grumpy grey clouds would appear in the sky of his heart. These little clouds didn’t like seeing Anthony so joyful and full of light. They wanted to put out his joy.



So they would quietly sneak into his mind or his heart and whisper bad thoughts to him: “You’re all alone... It’s too hard to pray... Jesus has forgotten you... Come on, stop, it’s not fun...”

Anthony would then feel his heart becoming a little sad or worried. But he knew what to do! He had a remarkable tactic that made both the little clouds and the big ones run away.



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First, Anthony would pray even more intensely: “Jesus, come close to me! Jesus, fill my heart with Your light! May these clouds full of sadness not darken my heart. I want to keep Your Joy and Your Peace, help me!”

Then his prayer became like a great wall of shining light, like a beautiful sun all around him. The grumpy grey clouds would hit this protective shield with all their strength, but they couldn’t get through.

The wall was far too strong...

Then the clouds, cunning like foxes, would change their strategy. They would become very sweet and say maliciously: “Stop praying, it really doesn’t do anything, you’re wasting your time!”

But Anthony stood firm and his wall of light held strong.



Some clouds even dared to pretend to be his friend Jesus and tried to convince the young boy to leave the cave and stop being kind and generous with the people who came to visit him in the desert. But Anthony had another very effective strategy: the little lamp of his heart that he called “The Lamp of Discernment.”

The Lamp of Discernment lit up his path in life, especially during his battle against the grumpy clouds. When Anthony prayed, Jesus would light this lamp in his heart. The little lamp would then gently say deep inside his heart: “Listen: do these thoughts give you sincere peace? No? Then it is not the voice of Jesus, these are the naughty grumpy clouds. Don’t be afraid, don’t listen to them, everything will be fine. Keep Hope alive.”



Full of courage, Anthony would gently but firmly say to the nasty little clouds: “In the name of Jesus, go away! I want to stay with my Friend Jesus.”

And the little grumpy grey clouds, defeated, would leave, light as bubbles that float away and disappear into the sky. The more Anthony prayed, the stronger and more solid his wall of light became. In the end, the little clouds hardly dared to come anymore, because they saw that the light of Jesus was the most powerful. On the contrary, they became afraid of Anthony.

Anthony had found a refuge that always brought him back to Peace: the refuge of prayer that lit the lamp of discernment and drove away all doubt and all fear.

Like a lighthouse in the night or in the storm, the lamp of discernment lit by Jesus guided him, protected him, and above all, always allowed him to move forward in life while keeping HOPE!

This is how our little Anthony lived, and one day he became Saint Anthony the Great.



Coloring Page: Saint Anthony The Great

