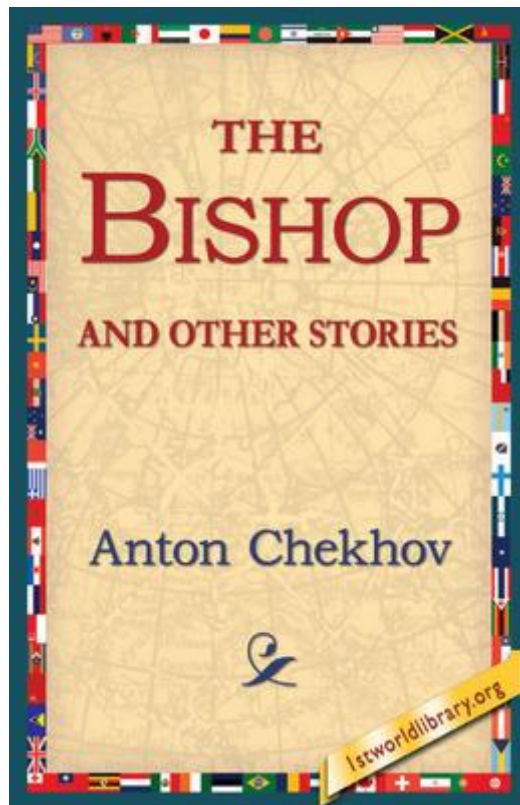


The Bishop And Other Stories - Anton Chekhov



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The evening service was being celebrated on the eve of Palm Sunday in the Old Petrovsky Convent. When they began distributing the palm it was close upon ten o'clock, the candles were burning dimly, the wicks wanted snuffing; it was all in a sort of mist. In the twilight of the church the crowd seemed heaving like the sea, and to Bishop Pyotr, who had been unwell for the last three days, it seemed that all the faces - old and young, men's and women's - were alike, that everyone who came up for the palm had the same expression in his eyes. In the mist he could not see the doors; the crowd kept moving and looked as though there were no end to it. The female choir was singing, a nun was reading the prayers for the day. How stifling, how hot it was! How long the service went on! Bishop Pyotr was tired. His breathing was laboured and rapid, his throat was parched, his shoulders ached with weariness, his legs were trembling. And it disturbed him unpleasantly when a religious maniac uttered occasional shrieks in the gallery. And then all of a sudden, as though in a dream or delirium, it seemed to the bishop as though his own mother Marya Timofyevna, whom he had not seen for nine years, or some old woman just like his mother, came up to him out of the crowd, and, after taking a palm branch from him, walked away looking at him all the

while good-humouredly with a kind, joyful smile until she was lost in the crowd. And for some reason tears flowed down his face. Author: Chekhov, Anton Publisher: 1st World Library - Literary Society Illustration: N Language: ENG Title: The Bishop and Other Stories Pages: 00000 (Encrypted PDF) On Sale: 2005-09-20 SKU-13/ISBN: 9781421811079 Category: Fiction : Short Stories (single author)

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