The Legend of Firemarth
Once upon a time
there was a kingdom called Firemarth.

Many creatures roamed this fine kingdom,
but it wasn’t always that way...
The kingdom was ruled by a stubborn king who couldn’t see past one’s appearances.

He judged all creatures on their looks alone.
His daughter Adelina, on the other hand, was kindhearted and able to see past one’s looks to the greatness in all, as one should.
She even saw love in the beasts of the land, who weren’t monsters, just misunderstood.
The king hated and feared the beasts, for how could something so different be any good?
Therefore, he chained up the beasts, not noticing the love and kindness within each one’s heart.

Adelina, hurt by her father’s actions, fled the kingdom that day with much sadness.
Adelina thought to herself, “Living creatures should be judged by what’s in their hearts, not by their appearance.”
Suddenly, a shadow appeared eclipsing the dimming sun.

As Adelina’s eyes focused, blazing scales of red ember approached her.
“Uh... uh... DRAGON!” Adelina shouted. Her compassion gave way to great fear at the sight of the giant creature.

“Fair lady, I mean you no harm,” the dragon confessed.

“These are but the battle scars of swords that tried slaying a kind heart. But I sense sadness within your soul child. What is troubling you?”
Adelina, never having been so close to a real dragon, was terrified at his size. But as she looked into his eyes she began to see the compassion deep within his kind, caring soul.

“I would understand your desire to flee for a dragon slaying knight,” the dragon said with a deep sigh.
“I have no desire to flee,” Adelina said. “The greatest of hearts can come from anywhere, regardless of looks. You just need to search deeper to find it.”
The dragon let out a burst of joyful flames.

“You have wisdom, child,” said the dragon, “wisdom that all should know and seek.”
In the far distance they heard the thundering sounds of hooves approaching them, ever closer.

“Father,” Adelina mumbled with growing fear.
“Adelina!”
the king howled.
Get away from that savage beast!”

He lunged at the dragon.
“Prepare to be slain!” he screamed as he drew his sword.
Frightened by the king’s rage, the dragon jumped back from the king’s fine steel blade.

The cliff began to give way from the weight of the huge beast.
The ground crumbled under the feet of the king.

“Father!” Adelina shouted as he started falling down the steep cliffside.
As the king fell, the dragon swooped down and caught him with his massive wings, laying him gently back down on the cliff.
Adelina rushed to her father.

“Adelina, I... I am ashamed. I hated the dragon as I hate all beasts of the kingdom.

But I have been saved by the fiercest beast of all. I am deeply ashamed of my actions,” the king confessed.
The king bowed his head to honor the dragon. “I owe you my life. Thank you,” the king said with deep compassion.

“I realize that you shouldn’t deny someone respect simply because they’re different.

We are all equals in this world, regardless of our skin or scales.”
Therefore, the king lifted the chains from all the friendly beasts of the land, finally seeing the greatness that is within each one’s heart.
And beast and man lived side by side, living happily ever after in the kingdom of Firemarth.