

"Well, you know, in the first place, the lion belongs to St. Mark. It has been taken for his symbol ever since the time of the apostles. The reason of this is, that the vision of Ezekiel, where he sees the cherubim, you know, describes them as having four faces, or, as some say, four distinct forms; that is, a man, a lion, an ox, and an eagle. Now, these have always been taken by the church to represent the four evangelists — the man representing St. Matthew; the lion, St. Mark; the ox, St. Luke; and the eagle, St. John."

"O, I'm very glad to know all that," said Gracie. "I'm sure I never heard it before. And that is why St. Mark has the lion. Well, as an American, I feel inclined to take St. John as the patron saint of our country, for his emblem is the eagle. But how did St. Mark's lion happen to have wings?"

"Well, that arose," said Vernon, "from the vision of the prophet Daniel. In his vision he sees four living things — the same as Ezekiel — a man, a lion with eagle's wings, an ox, and an eagle. These also were taken to represent the evangelists; and so, you see, the Lion of St. Mark gained a pair of wings, which wings you may see on that statue."

"How did Venice happen to choose St. Mark for its patron saint?" asked Gracie. "Why not St. Peter? or St. Paul? or St. Bartholomew? For my part, I've always had a weakness for St. Bartholomew. It's such a nice name, you know."