

THE TALKATIVE TURTLE

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Once upon a time there was a lagoon and marshland in the northern part of Costa Rica, called Cano Negro. Every year towards November, there were lots of migratory birds which came from the northern regions of the Earth to spend time eating abundant food and enjoying the warm weather. Some Canada geese were among the visitors. They came every year. They were the happiest bunch of creatures. They flapped their wings, they chased each other, they honked as loud as they could and seemed to have the time of their lives. They also told stories to each other of the places they had been.

Nearby there was a curious young turtle. She wanted to know why they were so happy, but she could not understand them. Every day she came to see them. Every day she came closer and closer to them. One day an older goose noticed her and tried to approach her and talk to her. It was hard to communicate. The duck did not speak turtle language and the turtle did not speak Canada geese language. However, the turtle kept coming back every day to see the geese. The old goose became friendly with her and started to teach her his language. Several months passed by. Every day the turtle learned more and more and so did the goose. When she could understand a little more she was invited to join the circle of friends. There she hear the exciting stories the geese were telling. They talked about the beautiful places they have visited in their travels from the arctic regions to the tropical areas. They have visited the five big lakes in the USA, Washington D.D., the bayous of Louisiana, the great pyramids in Yucatan and El Peten in Guatemala, the Great Lake of Nicaragua and the beautiful parks in Costa Rica.

The young turtle was fascinated with all the stories. She let the geese know how much she would like to see the things they had seen, but she had a problem. She told them she could not fly.

The geese wanted to help her but how could they? They had gatherings and brainstorming sessions to come up with an idea and help the young turtle. Finally, two big geese came up with a brilliant idea. They were going to get a straight stick and each will hold it at each end. Then they told the turtle to get a hold of the stick in the middle with her mouth. They made her swear not to open her mouth for anything. She did what she was told and the two geese took off for a trial flight around the lagoon. They returned and were happy to see their idea worked.

Then they told the turtle to go back to her neighborhood and prepare for the trip. It was going to be a long one. They were about to leave in a few days because the lagoon was drying up and spring time was arriving where they came from. So the turtle did what she was told. She went to her family, her boyfriend, and other friends to tell what she was about to do. All of them considered her crazy, but she had resolved to go in that adventure. The time came in to begin the trip back to the northern regions and all the

geese were ready to leave. They had planned to take turns holding the turtle on the stick and they were going to stop in many places so they will rest and relived the other geese.

They began their journey at the end of February. First they went over the Lake of Nicaragua and landed in the smaller lake of Managua. They found food there and continued their trip next day. They flew over parts of Honduras and decided to stop at the Lempira River. They continued their trip and next stop was at Lake Flores in El Peten, Guatemala. They stayed there a couple days. They saw some pyramids that the Mayan Indians had built. Next they flew over the Yucatan peninsula and saw several pyramids: Palenque, Chichen Itza y Uxaml. They continued their trip along the Gulf Coast and finally reached Texas. The turtle was doing great so far. She only opened her mouth when they were on land or in the water. The geese were happy with her. She was able to follow instructions. They rested a couple of days in a marsh near the Gulf of Mexico. Later on they continued following the Gulf Coast and reached the bayous of New Orleans. They rested a few days there, but for fear of being shot by some hunters they decided to continue the trip through Alabama and Tennessee.

When the turtle reached the Highlands of the Cumberland Plateau the turtle could not hold onto the stick because she exclaimed: “Oh, how beautiful mountains, lakes and land.” And she just begun to float in the air going down fast. The two geese carrying her started honking and every one realized what had happened. They tried to rescue her to no avail; she was dropping fast.

With a big splash she hit the water of the Camp Country Lad lake and san to the bottom of the lake.

Twelve geese remained there trying to find her the others continue their trip towards Canada...

Moral of the story: “Do not open your mouth when you are not supposed to.”

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