



Unity in the Woods

Once upon a time, there was a forest that was home to countless species and centred around the Mother Tree, a centuries-old tree that was vital to the ecosystem. One day, the tree began to wither mysteriously, and the loss of its life-giving energy could affect every creature and plant in the area. The Owl, who was the head of the forest, called for a meeting with the forest animals.

However, after hours of discussion, the animals still failed to reach a consensus over the solutions, and even blamed each other for not guarding the tree. No matter how the Owl attempted to mediate between them, they continued to quarrel and gradually left the meeting empty-handed.

In the next few days, more problems arose following the decline of the Mother Tree. The smaller plants started to die, and the herbivores faced food shortages. The animals feared that this would affect the entire food chain and cause them to become extinct. Panic spread through the animals, and they asked the Owl for help.

‘It is impossible for the tree to recover without your collaboration with each other. The forest belongs to all of us, and each individual’s contribution is crucial to saving our homes,’ the Owl said. The animals fell silent for a while, feeling ashamed and uncertain about what to do next. ‘With the strengths and uniqueness of each animal group, I believe we can devise an action plan. But first, we have to go and investigate the tree to figure out the root cause.’

With the help from the birds, the animals discovered that the vitality of the Mother Tree was drained by a foreign, invasive species of insect. After some discussions, they came up with a plan that required each of their unique skills – the squirrels quickly spread the orders from the Owl and searched for herbs and seeds that could serve as a natural pesticide; the giraffes applied the treatment by reaching its long neck into the tree; the spiders spun protective webs around sensitive areas. Under the guidance of the Owl, together with the determination and hard work of each animal, the Mother Tree slowly recovered and restored balance and health to the forest. The animals also learnt the value of collaboration and became more united whenever they encountered forest crises.