

The Worm and the Bird

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In a certain town lived two brothers, one adventurous named Tom and one cautious named Jerry, who from the time were born never separated from each other. The two brothers stayed inseparable all the way through high school and half way through college. With college halfway done, Tom decided to say farewell to Jerry and headed for a big city to finish his college career. For a short time or a long time Tom searched for a college that would give him access to a big city. Eventually Tom found the college of his dreams, a college right in the middle of a city. Meanwhile, back at home, Jerry sat home and attended a college that was close to home.

While at the college in the city, Tom found a girl that he took an exceptional liking to, her name was Tayna. The young couple in love wasted no time, after two weeks of knowing each other they decided to get married. Loving the big city, Tom decided to have his wedding in the city. Tom was so excited that he decided to ride home and deliver the news to his family in person. Before Tom left, his fiancée gave him three water jugs full of water and told him that no matter how thirsty he gets, not to accept water from anyone. Tom did not think much of the advice and set off to his home town.

After a long time or a short time, Tom became thirsty and decided to take a rest under a tree and drink some water. He opened up the jug and began to chug, just as he did this he spotted a deer attempting to drink from a dried up puddle. Upon seeing this Tom filled the puddle with his second jug of water so that the deer could have something to drink. Tom was happy to help out the deer and then sat back down and finished the jug he had opened. Nightfall was beginning to come so Tom finished the jug he had drunk from earlier and got back to his trip. Two times during the remainder of his journey Tom encountered an old woman who offered him sparkling mountain water and Tom,

remembering what his wife had told him, told the woman, “Though your water looks very delicious, I cannot accept your offer”, and was on his way.

In the distance Tom saw his house and became very excited and ran with all his energy across three fields that were between him and his home. However, his homecoming did not go as he had expected. When he got home his mother received him with open arms, but his brother Jerry did not seem to enjoy his company. After sharing his final jug of water with his family, Tom wasted no time and announced his marriage plans. His mother could not have been more excited, but Jerry seemed to become even more jealous of his brother. After a long time or a short time, Tom had to go back to the city for his wedding and asked his family to get ready for the trip. Unfortunately, neither Tom’s mom or his brother could make the trip, for separate reasons, so Tom set off for the city by himself.

Tom began his trip back to his fiancée feeling dejected because neither his mom nor his brother was going to be able to attend his wedding. Low and behold on his way back, Tom met once again with the old lady that had offered him water before. Needing a friend more than water, Tom decided to sit down and have a talk with the lady. They sat and talked for a long time or a short time, and then Tom said that he had to go; but, before he left, the old lady offered him some water for the third time. Tom was so upset about his wedding, he forgot what his wife had told him before he left and took a drink. As soon as Tom swallowed the water he turned into a worm. The old lady transformed into a snake and slithered away.

Tom did not know what to do. He did not know what worms ate or even what they did. After sleeping, for a long time or a short time, Tom decided to try and find his way back to his house. About halfway there Tom noticed a bird following him. Tom became

afraid and laid underneath a leaf. When Tom thought the coast was clear he came out from under the leaf and began to make his way home. However, before he could get anywhere the bird swooped down and picked Tom up and was about to eat him until Tom yelled out “Don’t eat me bird and you will be rewarded with whatever you want”. So instead of eating Tom the bird flew back to her nest to talk to Tom. Tom explained his situation and asked the bird for a favor. Tom asked the bird to fly to Tom’s brother and tell him what had happened. In return the bird asked Tom to build her a birdhouse once he becomes a human again, and Tom agreed.

Before Tom could get another word out the bird flew off. After a long time or a short time the bird reached Tom’s house. The bird saw Tom’s brother Jerry sitting on the porch and flew down to tell him. Jerry was very upset at the news and after thanking the bird, kissed his mother goodbye and set out to help his brother. Jerry had no idea what to do, so he decided to go to Tom’s house in the city and explain to Tanya what had happened. In order to save time, Jerry decided to ride on the birds back on the way to Tom’s house. In return Jerry gave the bird some homemade bread that his mom had just baked.

Jerry arrived at Tom’s house, thanked the bird, and then knocked on the door. Tanya, expecting Tom, thought Jerry was Tom, since they were twins. Jerry immediately explained that not only was he not Tom, but that Tom had turned into a worm because he drank the water an old lady had offered. Tanya started crying and Jerry asked her what was wrong. Tanya said that the old lady must have been her mom, who is a sorceress. Once Tanya calmed down, she spit into a cup and gave it to Jerry. She told Jerry that he must find Tom and give him the spit to drink in order for Tom to be able to turn back into a human.

Jerry went back outside and started his walk to his brother; the only problem was he had no idea how to find him. Despite this, Jerry followed the path he thought his brother would take while he walked through the woods. After a long time or a short time, Jerry became frustrated with walking around with no luck and he decided to take a nap underneath a tree. During the nap Jerry had a dream that Tom was resting in a bird's nest at the top of the tree he was sleeping under. So when Jerry woke up he glanced up and in fact saw a bird's nest. This presented a problem for Jerry because he did not know how to climb trees.

Then Jerry got an idea and started yelling for the bird that had brought him the news. Sure enough, a little time later a bird flew down and offered to fly Jerry up to the branch that the bird's nest sat on. In return Jerry gave him another piece of his mom's homemade bread. When Jerry got to the nest he found Tom lying there. Jerry gave Tom the spit and told him to drink it. Tom drank the spit and immediately turned back into a human; but, his weight combined with Jerry's was too much for the branch and they fell all the way to the ground.

Jerry hit his head on the ground and forgot that he was ever jealous of his brother decided to go to Tom's wedding after all. Tom was so excited that he even invited the bird to his wedding. Once Tom and Jerry got finished building the bird her bird house, they jumped on the back of the bird and headed for Tom's wedding. In return for the ride, Jerry gave the bird his last piece of his mom's homemade bread.

When they got to Tom's house they found a dead snake hanging from a nail. They asked Tanya what had happened and all Tanya said was that Tom could accept water from whoever he encountered from that time on. Tom and Tanya had a small wedding, the

guests besides the bride and groom, was Tom's brother and the bird. O yea, I forgot, I was there and I enjoyed the wedding, and at the reception I drank mead till I puked.