

## THE STONE VILLAGE

### Love begets love, kindness, kindness.

Long, Long ago, on one warm summer day, the sun looked down on the world. From the sky, he saw a village that was different from other villages. It was a stony village.

All the houses were made of stone. The tables, the plates, and the glasses were all stony. Even the trees and the leaves were of stone. And believe it or not, the people too, were stony people! They were all cold-blooded people: no love, no pity in their hearts for anyone.

Every morning the Sun used to say: "Why should I shine on this stone village? They do not know how to love; No pity for anyone, no joy, no smiles,. The Sun, however, hopefully, used to say: A day may come when these stony people will allow me to warm their hearts!

There were two happy children, Reena and Robin , living close by the village on the other side of the river. One day, as usual, they were playing in the meadow on the river bank. They were frolicking around and filling the air with cheerful voices.

Reena was rocking a little doll, her Grandmother had given her on her birthday. Absentmindedly, she dropped the doll into the water. She cried out in despair: "Oh my doll, my doll! It has fallen into the river! "Please, Robin, soon, get it out of the water before the water carries it away"

Just then, three men from the stony village passed by the side of the river. Robin cried: "Hey! Help, help! Can you help us to get our doll out of the river? Please help us!" But the stone men did not reply. They just walked on.

Then, suddenly one of men stopped. He looked at the kids and listened to them. The pleading voice of Robin rang a bell in his heart. He said to himself: "Oh, these little children need my help!"

The Sun began to smile. Then, a warmth began to glow inside the stony heart of that man. Without a second thought, he jumped into the river to rescue the little doll.

The Sun said: "OH, what do I see? The stone man is sinking! Oh no! I must help him before he drowns with the weight of his heart of stone" Then, the sun more brightly than ever, shone warmly into the river. That man's heart began to melt. The warmth of the sun changed his heart into a heart of flesh.

The savior brought the doll out of the water and tenderly said to the little girl: "Don't cry. my child. Here's your doll!" Rena full of joy, threw herself into the savior's arms and kissed him.

His companions, who had had seen what happened, joyfully congratulated him. Sppn, a new feeling arose within them.. Their hearts had turned into fleshy hearts.

And, wonder of wonders! Very soon, in the village of stone, the trees began to sprout t. Birds, twittering and chirping, flew over in their skies, flowers opened wide their petals.

The sun smiled. Now, he was happy to shine on the village warming the hearts of all. The Sun muttered : **The village was dead but now is alive.**

*(Adaptation from a script of a Spanish Audiovisual.)*