

TREE THAT ALWAYS SAID "NO"

In the center of a forest there lived a tall tree.
It was proud of its strong trunk, its shady branches
And its fruits and flowers.
It was the best tree in that forest.
One day, some squirrels came to the tree; one of them said:
" Hmmm! What a nice tree!
I bet, it's the best tree ever seen!
What a lovely place to make our home!"
The tree growled: " What! Home here?
Just, who do you think you are?"
The squirrels explained: " Well, we were just talking
About moving in here and making you our new home!".
The tree shouted: " No! No! You're not.
I can't have you running all around disturbing me."
The Squirrels pleaded: " Please, do let us in.
We shall be good mannered."
The tree barked: " Listen! When I say No.
I mean " NO"! Be gone!
I have no place for you!"
The poor little squirrels left the tree
And made their way through the forest
Looking for a place to stay. They were very unhappy.
They would never find a better tree than that.
Not long after that, a Bear approached the tree.
He exclaimed: " Oh, Oh! That looks like a good tree!
Strong trunk, plenty of leaves I'm sure,
If I climb up and look around, I'll find something to eat."
The tree growled: " Ho! Ho! Take it easy, man;
Do you not know that you have very sharp claws?
Right now, one of them is poking me"
The little Bear apologized: " I am very sorry.
I was just trying to see; you know,
Some bees might be living in the hollow
Of your branches. I like honey! Mmmm
It's so sweet!"
The tree yelled: " Buzz? Buzz off from here, mister:
No one is allowed to stay here!"
But the bear playfully went about in search for honey.
Angrily, the tree shouted: " If you don't come down
Right now, I'll send you flying down."
Before the young bear could even turn, forcefully
He shook his trunk and sent the bear hurling to the ground.
The tree said: " Well, you have to know me!
"NO" is what I said and "NO" is what I meant!

Hope you will remember.”

The bear moved away quite sore and sorry for what
Had happened. He would never forget the unfriendly
Tree. He would never approach him again.
No sooner the bear of off, when a little bird
Fluttered and rested on the nose of the tree.
Two angry eyes stared at him:
“ Little bird, I must tell you, just in case you are
not aware, you are sitting on my nose!”
The bird chirped: “ I just wanted to rest a while
In your shade. I am very tired, if you like:
I can sing for you too! Kindly let me rest!”
But, the tree rattled his branches to get rid
Of the bird. Sadly the bird said: “ So, you want
To be left alone?. You do not like friends, nor music?”
And off flew the little bird without having had a chance to rest.
Soon it seemed as though everyone decided to leave
The unfriendly tree alone. For a long time, he saw
And heard no one. He was all-alone by himself.
Until one day his loneliness was interrupted.
A little insect was walking on his nose tickling him.
Soon there were two, and three and more insects
Strolling around.
The tree remonstrated: “ And just what do you mean by
strolling on my nose? Who are you?”
The insects remarked: “ No one wants to know who we are:
If anything, they only want to get us out from wherever
We are. But, it’s not that easy, you know!
We are going to feed on you for a long while.
Our numbers are millions, we are white ants.”
For the first time in his life the tree felt helpless.
His “NO” meant nothing at all to those tiny creatures.
Unperturbed, they went on in their business.
It would not be long before they would bore holes all
through the tree and make him look as the ugliest tree
In the forest. Helplessly our tree was crying out:
“ Help! Help! Help!”
There was a noise in a bush nearby. It was the little
Bear again. He had forgotten all that the tree had
Done to him.
He asked: “ Hey? What’s the matter with you?
Are you in trouble?”
The tree cried out: “ Yes, I’m afraid this time
I can’t help myself. Please, help me to get rid
Of these white ants crawling all over me, they are
Feeding on me.”

Pensively, the bear remarked: “ Well, that’s a serious Problem. I can’t handle it. But, you know, I have a friend Who NEVER SAYS ‘ NO’ when I need him. Just wait. I’ll go to him”.

And so, the bear run off in all speed to meet His friend. When he met his friend he said: “Oh, Mr. Owl, hurry, hurry come with me. Do you remember that tree in the middle of the forest”? The Owl said: “ Ah, the tree that always says “NO” The squirrel went on: “ Yes, exactly that’s the one, You know, now, he’s in real trouble. Will you come to help?”

On the way, the bear told the owl all about the White ants and the trouble the tree had. The Owl said “ We have no time to lose, hurry, Go and get the woodpecker family. Tell them it’s an emergency!”

The woodpecker family knew the tree very well, because he always said “NO” to them, whenever They came to him. But they wanted to be friendly too and with not a minute to waste they were off to where the tree stood.

You should have seen them picking and ticking away The white ants, one by one, the whole forest filled With the sound of there busy peaks. After a while the woodpeckers asked: “How do you feel now, Mr. Tree? Just look at all these white ants go!”

The tree could hardly believe how good he felt. Gratefully the tree replied: “ Thank you, thank you Woodpeckers! Thank you all for saving me! Thank you!..”

In the meantime, the bear and the owl made Ready to go back. The tree shouted at them: “Wait! Wait! Mr. Owl; wait little bear! Come back! From now on you can come to me any time you like. I do not want to be anymore The tree that always said “NO” I want to be friendly to everyone. Now, I’ll be the tree that always said, “ YES” And so, from that day onwards, everyone began going to the tree; one for honey, another for rest, another for shelter. And all were very happy because the tree always said “ YES”.

from: the story of ‘The Tree thatAlways Said ‘ No’

