



The Tortoise and the Hare

By Neema Oshidary

Once upon a time, there was a tortoise and a hare. You might find it hard to believe, but these two animals were best of friends, despite the fact that they were opposites in practically every way. Not only were they physically opposites with the tortoise's hard dark shell and the hare's soft white fur, but also the two had completely contrasting personalities. The Hare loved nothing more than winning and feeling superior to others while the Tortoise was the least competitive creature in the animal kingdom.

One day, the Tortoise and the Hare were walking over to the watering hole to go for a midday swim. Frustrated by the sluggish pace of the Tortoise, the Hare turned around and shouted "Hurry up, you slow poke!"

The tortoise extended his head out of his shell to reply to the Hare's taunt. "It is a lovely day. Why would I want to rush myself and miss out on all the beauty around us?"

"I'll give you a reason to rush," shouted the Hare. "I challenge you to a race. The first one to the watering hole wins."

The Tortoise looked up and smiled at the Hare. "Alright. You're on! But watch out. Your pride is on the line."

The Hare chuckled. "Oh, don't worry about me. This should be a piece of cake." And with that the Hare counted to the three and the race began.

In no time the Hare had a commanding lead over the Tortoise. As the Hare approached the watering hole, he glanced back to see if the Tortoise was close behind. To his relief, the Tortoise was so far back that he was merely a speck in the distance. When the Hare arrived to the water he jumped in and began celebrating his victory. The Hare was so happy with himself and his win that when the Tortoise finally reached the watering hole hours later the Hare was still joyfully splashing around in the water and basking in his success. When the Tortoise saw this, he couldn't help but to smile. The Hare noticed the Tortoise's look of satisfaction and abruptly stopped reveling in his victory. In fact, not only did the Hare stop celebrating, but he suddenly got angry. "Why are you so happy!? You should be upset. You lost!"

The Tortoise began explaining himself. "I know that I lost. But seeing you so happy made me happy for you."

“That’s ridiculous. I beat you. You should be upset and angry with yourself for losing. Sometimes you really annoy me with your absurd ways.”

Upon hearing this, the Tortoise suddenly began frowning because he felt horrible that he was responsible for ruining the Hare’s celebration. The Tortoise felt so guilty in fact that he began crying for he would never have wished to make his best friend so angry. Feeling ashamed, the Tortoise tucked his head into his shell.

When the Hare noticed that the Tortoise was crying he suddenly burst out laughing. “I knew it! You were just pretending that you were happy but in reality you are really miserable that you lost and I won! I told you that I was gonna beat you!” And with his renewed happiness, the Hare jumped back into the water and continued celebrating his success.

The Tortoise poked his head out and saw the Hare joyfully splashing around in the water. Seeing that his best friend was once again happy the Tortoise burst into a smile, but this time the Hare was having too much fun to notice.

THE END

