

The Ogre and the Honey Bees - Compassion

Once there lived a selfish Ogre who had a beautiful garden filled with flowers of every kind. He grew this garden because more than anything, he loved honey. He intended to gather nectar from the blossoms to fill his pantries with precious honey.

One morning as he came out to gather nectar, he found honeybees in his flowers.

“Get out of my garden!” he roared, “No one is allowed to touch my flowers but me!”

He chased all the bees away, built a giant wall around his flowers, and draped netting overtop to keep everyone out.

The bees watched in dismay as the ogre set to work collecting nectar. As the ogre fumbled from flower to flower, he crushed petals and broke stems with his gigantic clumsy fingers. On every flower he touched he left his ogre stench. Everyday the Ogre demolished his garden a little more, and to his frustration, he could not gather any nectar to make honey.

“Oh the poor flowers! We can’t bare to see such cruelty! What can we do?” asked the honeybees of the cunning wasp.

“Gather your best warrior bees and lay in wait – as soon as he leaves the garden, sting him!” replied the wasp. “Teach him a lesson for his selfishness!”

But the Queen Bee had a different idea.

Instead, she took her best worker bees and presented the Ogre their finest honeycomb.

“Great Ogre,” said the Queen, “if you let us gather the nectar from your garden we will fill your pantries with honey.

The Ogre was selfish, but he was not a fool. He immediately took down the netting and the walls. Thousands of worker bees entered the garden and attended every flower. Not one stem was broken. No petals were bruised. The once trampled garden thrived and the once angry Ogre became as sweet as the honey he enjoyed.

The flowers were happy, the Ogre was happy, the bees were happy and the humbled wasp learned that with compassion comes abundance.