

STORIES OF AUNT ANGELINA

Volume 2



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"The duckling that wanted to speak"

(Subject: Reconcile to oneself
Learn the joy of being what one is)



Once upon a time there was a pretty yellow duckling. One day he left his house early in the morning for a walk along the road. The morning was clear, the sky was blue, and there were many others animals that were also taking a walk.

He had not walked too far when he came across a cute cat. The cat, being very polite, complimented the duckling like this:

"Meow, meow!"

The duckling was enchanted and said:

"Oh! That is a very lovely way you speak, Mr. Cat! I wish I could talk like that!"



"It is very easy, duckling." The cat answered. "Do you want to try it?"

The duckling tried to say, "meow."

He did not get it. He tried again; he tried many times! It was impossible!

Then he said:

"It is very difficult, Mr. Cat! Ducks cannot talk like this!"

So he said goodbye to the cat and continued his walk.

A little further down the road he met Mrs. Plymouth Rock Hen.



“Cock-a-doodle-doo.” said Mrs. Hen.

The duckling was enchanted:

“Oh! How lovely you speak, Mrs. Hen!”

“Try to speak like me, duckling.” Mrs. Hen said.

The duckling tried to imitate Mrs. Hen. He tried every way that he could and he got nothing. After some time, being discouraged, he spoke:

“Thank you very much for your help, Mrs. Hen, but that is very difficult for ducklings.”

He said goodbye to Mrs. Hen and continued his way.

He walked and walked, and soon he entered the woods. Suddenly, he heard the prettiest voice in the world:

“Tweet, tweet, tweet.”

The duckling was enchanted!

He looked up and saw in the branch of the tree a pretty little bird of colorful feathers.



“How beautiful you talk, little bird! I wish that I could speak as beautiful as you!”

“Give it a try, duckling! Try to speak like me!”

The duckling opened his beak, but nothing came out. He tried everything he could to say “tweet, tweet, tweet.” It was impossible.

3

He was discouraged. He said goodbye and headed sadly towards home.



In the way, he met Mrs. Duck.

“Quack, quack, quack”, said the duck

“Oh! Mother!” The duckling cried out.

“Could I speak like you?”

“Try it, my son, try it!”

The duckling opened his beak. He wished to speak like his mother! What if he could not? He did not speak as a cat, as a hen, or as a bird. Would it be possible for him to speak like a duck? He made an effort, and...

“Quack, quack, quack...”

“Very well, my son!” His Mother said happily.

The Duckling was glad, very glad. Later, he and his mother went back to their house, all the time repeating:

“Quack, quack, quack.”

Many times we look at the attributes that we find in others and we forget to look at ourselves to find the beauty that we have.

(Drawings and Adaptation by Maria Rodrigues do Amaral)

"The Lord and His Servant"



One Lord, wanting to offer to his friends a banquet, called his servant and ordered him to look for the noblest of all foods.

"Look for something that will honor my guests." The Lord said.

The servant thought about it, and brought him a tongue.

The rich gentleman found it odd and asked:

"Why a tongue?"

"Because in the moral sense and figurative mean, the tongue is noble, it is generous, is foresighted, charitable, friendly and thoughtful." said the servant.

"It is truth!" agreed the Lord.



Some time later the Lord decided to offer a banquet to his enemies, therefore he called his servant again and ordered:



“Bring to me a worthlessness and inconvenient food, so that I can serve as feast to my enemies!”

The servant brought tongue.

“What? The tongue again?” The Lord exclaimed.

“Yes!” The servant said.

“The tongue can be noble and worthless. It can produce good; but it can also produce bad. Many bad things can be delivered through the tongue: slander, ungratefulness, lie, calumny, etc.”

About this the apostle James said: “We all stumble at many things. If somebody does not stumble at speech, he or she is a perfect individual, capable to control also his/her body.”