

## **Jake the Bear and His Golden Tree**

Once upon a time, there were many bears that lived in the mountains. It had yellow landscapes with flat, rough edges, steep and tall with very high peaks and many tropical forests. Many of the bears loved to climb rapidly in the high altitude. It was very challenging. The bears lived in caves. It was named the Bear Mountain. The weather was very warm all year around.

There were many different kinds of bears who lived together very happily. The bears' coats were very shiny. Some were white and brown, black and orange. They wore long dresses that kept them cool with different colors that matched their personality. They looked so beautiful!

There was one bear that looked like snow and was very tall and huge. His name was Jake and he had a soft heart. He was a very smart and wise bear. He was the King Bear's son in the bear land. Jake made sure that every bear was very happy and got along with one another. Jake the bear always made sure that every bear got enough honey to feed their family.

Jake helped King Bear, his father, manage the kingdom. He took some of the responsibilities to help his father. He worked with several chief bears to help manage the kingdom. One of the Chief Bears came to Jake for assistance if needed. Many of them knew Jake was very respectful and fair to every bear, just like his father King Bear.

Today was the day Jake was planning to go fishing until the chief bear came to see him. Jake saw his face and asked him, "What's wrong?" The chief bear told him the honey had nearly ran out and the bears would start to go hungry. There was no more to share.

"Will you come with me to the swamp and I have something to show you. It's not looking good."

Jake agreed to follow Chief Bear to the swamp where the hives were located. When they got there and Chief Bear pointed in the exact direction and there were no bees' activities out there.

Jake went and inspected the hives to see the reasons for their departure. He found nothing. He couldn't find anything that was invaded. There were no dead bees. It was getting stranger by the

minute.

“You can see there is not even one bee around. It's like they have disappeared.” Chief Bear expressed.

“Do you have any idea where the bees have gone to?” Jake questioned.

“I have no idea why they left their hives. We may have to find the bees somewhere to bring them back somehow or we will go hungry.” Chief Bear remarked.

Jake nodded, “We need return to the Bear Mountain and I will go see King Bear and speak to him about this problem. I want to keep this between us. We don't want to get the bears in a panic,” Chief Bear agreed.

Both Jake and Chief Bear ran toward to the kingdom. Jake was concerned and asked himself a question, “Where could the bees have disappeared to?” He was unable to figure it out.

The King Bear eyes were radiant when he saw his son entered the room. He loved his son. He was happy to see Jake help to run his kingdom smoothly for him.

King Bear was tall like Jake. He had light black fur. His face looked delightful and very handsome and his heart was fair and very kind. He wore a long, royal blue robe with gold trimmings and sandals.

King Bear commanded Jake to come and sit with him. “Hi Son, what brings you here. I thought you had gone fishing today?”

Jake replied, “I wish I did but this one needs our attention.”

“What's wrong?” King Bear asked.

“The Chief Bear came to me and informed me we have low supply of honey and there is little left of it for us bears. We have nearly run out of honey. We need to solve this before we go hungry. We can't wait a day or two. We need to take an action right now,” Jake worried.

“What happened to the bees near the swamp?” asked King Bear.

Jake answered, “I have no idea what happened to it. We went there to inspect and spotted none of the bees. It seems like they have disappeared. There were not tampered with or attacked. I'm not sure where they have gone to. My guess is they just vanished.” The King Bear became concerned and remarked, “Jake, Yes! We need act

now." He stood up, paced around and then he came up with idea. He groaned and pacing around again while Jake was watching, wondering what he was thinking. That's it! Finally, the solution.

"Jake, Jake it came to me just now. I think I may have found a solution to help us with the shortage problem. I just remembered about the Golden Tree. It will produce more honey." King Bear said excitedly.

Jake was dismayed and skeptical and asked him, "Are you for real? Where did that idea come from?"

"It came to me all of sudden. I have not thought of it until now." King Bear got excited and told him.

Jake was slowly piqued and asked Father to tell the whole story from the beginning because he tried to figured it out how honey could be produced out of a tree.

King Bear spoke, "Yes Jake, I know you may be skeptical about this Golden Tree. I learned this from my father's stories when I was a young cub." Jake was listening intently as Father explain the story on how to find the Golden Tree.

"The story was passed for many centuries. It says the One will believe in the Golden Tree and will receive guidance from the Chosen One."

Father, "What's the story about the Chosen One? How do I know or find him?" Jake questioned, hoping he could give him more information so that he could go to the Forest to find honey himself.

Father explained to Jake, "Your grandfather spoke this story once about the Golden Tree when I was a young cub. The Golden Tree is in the Forest. It is very rare and odd shaped and no one noticed the strangeness. Only few will take a notice of it. It will only respond the secret password that will give you more honey."

Jake got excited and asked his father, "What is the secret password?" King Bear sadly answered, "I don't have it with me. I have no idea what the password is. Grandfather did not share it with me. It will be given to you when it direly is needed. So you'll need to go on a journey to the Forest. I know your grandfather can help you."

"How? Grandfather has departed this Bear World. It's impossible to ask Grandfather for the password. This is a emergency! We do

need honey. I asked you, Do you believe in this story there will be plenty of honey in the Forest?" Jake questioned.

"Oh yes, I strongly believe in it. I do know it's there for a reason. Our ancestors have passed to us for centuries as long as the One believes it. You might be the One but you have to believe in this story and it will lead you to find the right tree." King Bear confirmed.

"But this story is farfetched. It seems like it comes from the imaginative storyteller." Jake hesitates.

King Bear commented, "I know it looks farfetched to you but you have to take the leap of faith and try not to see with reality with your eyes."

Jake sighs and said "I'll try to take your word for it. I will go on the journey on my own so it has to be secret." King Bear agreed. So Jake told his King Bear that we need to announce to the kingdom about short supply of honey.

"I can leave the mountain in the morning to search for more honey." Father nodded and approved. Jake the bear left his Father and went to see the chief bear and commanded him to start the proclamation to all the bears together in Bear Mountain Land to come see the King Bear and Jake the Bear.

Later that day, Jake the Bear saw all of the bears in many different form and shapes. They gathered themselves together around the land. King Bear stood before the multitude and spoke, "Thank you for coming on the short notice. We have a situation that needs your attention. I will have Jake the Bear to speak to you. Please heed properly."

Jake came up before the audience and started to speak. "It has come to my attention that I must inform you all that we have a short supply of honey. We can't predict when the honey will run out. Please use it reasonably. There won't be enough for all of us. We won't know why it did happen."

The bears gasped and murmured among themselves with many unanswered questions. Jake saw their worried faces and drew his paws.

He spoke, "I can't answer every question you have but I will tell you what I have learned. The bees at the swamp have disappeared

and I don't see any tamper or corruption the bees may have done. We can't wait for bees to return. We need honey to survive so we need to take an action. I will must leave the mountain to go on a journey to search for more honey for us bears. I won't know how long I will be gone. Please use your honey wisely until I return."

The morning came, the chief bears were helping pack the provisions with many of empty jugs on his sledge and wrapping ropes around them. Many bears surrounded him in his sledge wishing him well on his journey. King Bear stood in front of Jake, shaking his hands and told him, "Godspeed."

"I'll try to return as soon as I can."

As many bears chanted for Jake, he left the mountain very far away for a long time until he reached up the hill. He saw that the huge Forest had so many trees out there in a distance. He began to slow down due to being extremely exhausted. He took off the harness from his form, stood and beheld the Forest so huge in many different directions. There were several Living Waters land on different places on the other side of the Forest. Jake wasn't sure which way he should go to the right Forest. Jake wasn't too eager to take his sledge with him and thought it would prove a very difficult journey dragging the sledge through the Forest while searching for the Golden Tree. He found a secret spot and hid the sledge covering it with bushes.

Jake needed to find an answer about where to go to the exact Living Waters, but he took a rest first to eat while he was observing the Forest. He sat down on the rock and pondering all day until night time came. He fell asleep and had a dream. He had a dream and heard a voice that is familiar about giving him a description of the tree. Jake started to listen to the story from the familiar voice about the Golden Tree. The voice, which Jake then pinpointed to that of his Grandfather's voice, described the tree deeper in details and how odd it looked. He learned how to command it and it would grant his wish. Then the tree will become golden.

Then the next morning, it struck him with a strong déjà vu feeling that he would be suppose to be here. Suddenly Jake realized he was destined and meant to be here; and was officially chosen to be on mission. Thus he was more determined to find that tree by going into

the Forest and met every tree. He commanded each one by saying "make me honey." But not even one tree obeyed the command at all. He was exhausted and practically met every tree in the Forest.

The sunset came, Jake sat down feeling discouraged and depressed. Not knowing what to do, he started looking up to the heavens wondering if his Grandfather was up there watching and could help him to find the Golden Tree as his King Bear said he would. Jake recited himself trying to remember from his dream from the previous night what the voice have told him about the specific tree over again and again. So Jake pondered deeply the rest of the evening. His exhaustion took over and he fell asleep and dreamed about his Grandfather giving him the exact instructions again. It took him all night to remember the answer. He was glad he didn't give up. His father, King Bear, and the bears in the Kingdom were depending on him.

When the dream ended, Jake woke up suddenly and was shocked and exclaimed, "That was Grandfather he was speaking with in his dream. King Bear was right! He was feeling so much joyful to be able to speak with him again!"

He started to remember the full details from the dream about the odd tree that lived by the Living Waters. It would obey every command. Jake became excited and knew where to find the golden tree. Jake ran to the one of the Living Waters. It took Jake a while with different directions with many turns and twists to find it but he found one with a special feeling like being drawn to this specific tree and then approached the one odd tree there.

Jake wasn't sure if this was the one and touched the tree to see if he can feel the oddity from the tree. So Jake the Bear has decided to test it by commanding the tree "Make me honey." The tree started to become golden suddenly with a loud squeaking. It started to produce the honey from the inside. Jake's eyes went wide! He became excited when he saw the honey then overflowing and spilling to the ground.

Jake was jumping for joy! He couldn't believe it was real! He knew his bears from Bear Mountain were saved from hunger and would have plenty of honey to eat. He knelt and stretched his arms to

the heavens and thanked Grandfather for the miracle.

Jake went and took out the sledge from the hiding place to start filling jugs with honey. It took him many hours to get all the jugs filled with honey. Jake began to realize it would be very tough to pull the sledge back to the mountain with full jugs of honey. It took a few attempts for Jake to be able to pull the sledge and the trip was slow for him. It took several days for him to travel back to Bear Mountain.

Several bears happened to see Jake pulling the sledge from a distance. "Jake is back! Jake is back!" All the bears were cheering and ran to Jake. Chief Bear and King Bear looked at each other and got very excited when they heard that Jake was back and ran to where the bears were. Both saw Jake and were overjoyed.

King Bear made a request, "Will all of you with the Chief Bear to go help Jake?"

Chief Bear spoke, "I will go and get all of the chief bears to help." King Bear ran out to Jake and embraced him and exclaimed, "You're back!" Jake took one of the jugs from the sledge and opened to show him the honey.

King Bear saw it and gasped, "You did it! I am very proud of you my son!" And gave Jake a big hug.

The Bear Mountain bears surrounded Jake and King Bear. Jake showed them the honey to see for themselves. Many cheered! Several of the Chief Bears helped pull the sledge back into the kingdom.

From this day the bears were overjoyed and never went hungry again! Jake knew he had to keep the secret so the tree would continue to provide the honey when his bears need it.

A few days later, Jake stood and oversee the bears were content with normal routines. Jake felt proud of his determination to find the Golden Tree to help his bears despite his beliefs. King Bear sneaked behind and surprised Jake by suggesting, "Do you want go fishing?" Jake felt thrilled with his idea.

"You bet, let's go!" Both ran out.