

The Sacrifice of the Bunny

An Easter Tale

The story is told of a forest of animals who lived by The Forest Law. The Law was strict and those who disobeyed the law were thrown into the thick and thorny briar patch. The enforcer of The Law was The Wise Owl. His judgement was just and good. Among many of the laws the animals had to follow was one of population control. The forest had suffered a long draught and a terrible winter. Food was scarce, so there was a call to control the number of animals living in the forest so everyone could eat. It was decided that every animal was allowed 2 offspring. No more.

Among the animals who lived in the forest was The Great White Bunny. It was rumored The Great White Bunny had never sinned, which was why his fur coat was perfectly white as snow. He was kind and meek, always looking to help a fellow animal out in need. His food was shared with the hungry animals. He helped build shelters to guard the animals against the harsh winter. None of the animals ever heard him complain. Rather, they always heard him expressing gratitude. How grateful he was to the sun that shined; to the gentle cool breeze, to the small budding flower.

The animals loved to gather often to hear him tell stories. Being very wise, his stories often had hidden meaning and morals, which left the animals pondering their own lives and wondering how to improve and be better. The baby animals enjoyed playing games with him. The Great White Bunny was loved by all.

One day, there was a big commotion in the forest. A mother bird had laid 3 eggs. She had disobeyed The Law of the Offspring. The angry animals took the mother bird and her eggs to The Wise Owl to be judged. After hearing the situation, The Wise Owl sat and thought. He finally spoke with a heavy heart.

“The Law must be obeyed. We will throw one of the eggs into the briar patch so the population will be maintained once again.”

“Please! Have mercy,” sobbed the mother bird. “Please, my eggs will hatch soon!”

All the animals were very sad. No one wanted a poor baby chick to suffer the consequences. Suddenly The Great White Bunny stepped forward. He looked at the crying mother bird with love in his eyes.

“The Law must be fulfilled. Throw me into the briar patch and let the little chick live,” The Great White Bunny said. A tear fell from The Wise Owl’s eye. He loved The Great White Bunny. He knew the population must be controlled to save all the other animals. None of the other animals volunteered to take the egg’s place.

“Let it be done,” sighed The Wise Owl. With tears covering the forest floor, the animals carried The Great White Bunny to the briar patch. They stopped at the edge. There, he looked each and every animal in the eye.

"I love you," he smiled as he was tossed in the briar patch. The forest was silent. Every animal stood still. The Great White Bunny was willing to do something none of the other animals were willing to. He fulfilled The Law. He had sacrificed himself for someone who wasn't even born yet. He hadn't met the little chick inside the egg and yet he loved her.

The next day, one of the mother bird's eggs hatched. The animals stopped by to see the beautiful new arrival but still had lumps in their throats as they thought of The Great White Bunny's sacrifice. Another day had passed and the second egg hatched. Again, the animals greeted the sweet little chick. The third day came. The sun was shining brightly over the forest. The mother bird was just opening her eyes when she saw a glimpse of white on the horizon. Could it be? How was it possible? She squinted for a better look. It was The Great White Bunny!

"Everyone look!" she pointed. "It's him! He has returned!"

The animals all rushed to see The Great White Bunny. It was a miracle! He had come back! He smiled as they greeted him. Along his perfect white coat were punctures from the briar patch. The animals examined the holes and cried. They cried for the pain he had suffered. They cried for the love they had felt for him. They cried with happiness for his return. He continued to walk to the forest as he came upon the mother bird at her nest. She fell at his feet.

"Oh thank you," she wept. Just then her third egg cracked. A stunning chick with pure white feathers peaked out of her shell. The Great White Bunny bent over and picked her up. He held her tight as she smiled up at him. The little chick had no idea the sacrifice he had suffered for her. She had no idea the great love he had felt for her.

"Will you stay?" asked the mother bird.

"I cannot stay forever. There is much more beyond the briar patch. I am needed there," The Great White Bunny replied.

Time had passed and it was finally time for The Great White Bunny to leave once again. All the animals had said their goodbyes as he departed. Every time a new egg was laid in the forest, the animals were reminded of The Great White Bunny and his loving sacrifice.

May we too remember our Savior, Jesus Christ this Easter when we see the eggs brought by the white bunny. He was sacrificed for us so that we may have a chance in this life. He loves each of us infinitely.