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I NTRODUCTION

The Wonderful World of Dr Owl is the second episode of the Dr Owl series. This book continues the fascinating and touching tales of Misty Forest animals. Each story carries a Christian message for reflection on some aspects of modern-day living, which often present themselves as obstacles to the nurturing and maturation of Christian character.

The reader can see in these stories how the imaginary animals of Misty Forest become wiser and more mature in the way they reason and act in the context of family relationships and within their community, all in realistic life situations to which the young reader can easily relate. The stories are short and fun to read, can be moving, and may have surprising conclusions. Many of them are evangelistic in nature, inviting the reader to reflect on the purpose and meaning of life. The book contains a section devoted to examining the relationship between science and the Christian religion, with special attention given to the theory of evolution, a topic often perplexing to young minds and even possibly casting doubt on their faith.

The main characters in this book are Dr Owl, his wife Mother Owl and their young daughters Chill

Chill and Mill Mill, and Rave the reckless young owl. Other interesting characters include Connie the praying bear, Minsi the sentimental squirrel, Jessie the self-admiring deer, the tender-hearted song-bird, the adventurous snowflakes, the cunning and deceitful red fox, the brave migrating butterflies, the wise golden eagle, the simple-minded monkey king, the repentant parrot, the wicked robot, the noble swans and many others.

The Wonderful World of Dr Owl is written for the whole family to read, share and enjoy together, opening up opportunities for further instruction and family prayer. It can also be used as a storybook for bedtime, as well as an educational tool to benefit children in a school or church setting.

P. C. Poon

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A Bicycle

One morning, Mill Mill found four letters in the post box. She was surprised to see that all the letters were for her. Hastily, she opened the first one. It read, Mill Mill, you've been selected to win a new bicycle! But you must complete three things to win this prize.

"A new bicycle! It's what I've been waiting for!" cried Mill Mill.

The instruction in the first letter was: *Fly around your house twenty times and then shout 'asalaba' three times as loudly as you can. You have two minutes to do this.*

"This isn't too hard," Mill Mill said to herself. "But what does 'asalaba' mean?" she pondered. The letter did not explain its meaning, however. After putting down the letter, she immediately flew around the house as fast as she could and shouted 'asalaba' three times, all within the time limit.

Then she quickly opened the second letter. It read, *You must make another animal understand that you want to take a bath with your clothes on, but you are not allowed to speak to that animal.*

"Wow! This is much harder!" said Mill Mill. "But I'll try."

She found Chill Chill lying on the sofa. Following the instruction, she acted without saying a word, making all kinds of funny movements with her whole body. To her dismay, Chill Chill could not understand what she wanted to say.

"Mill Mill, are you mad? Why don't you speak?" asked Chill Chill. Mill Mill was desperate, so she led Chill Chill by the wing to the bird bathroom and jumped into the bath herself, pretending to wash with soap and water.

Chill Chill laughed and nodded her head. "I can finally understand now!"



Having done those two things asked of her in the letters and all in good time, Mill Mill opened the third letter. It read, *You have to jump with one leg one hundred times in the street without stopping.*

"That's impossible to do!" exclaimed Mill Mill in despair. "But I really love to have a bicycle, so I'll do it!" Mill Mill flew to the market and started jumping with one leg in the street. Other animals seeing her started laughing at her.

“Mill Mill, why don’t you fly? There is no reason to jump like that! Have you forgotten how to fly?” they called out to her.

Mill Mill finished jumping within the time limit. Then she eagerly opened the fourth letter. It said, *Congratulations! You have won a bicycle!*

She saw a hand-drawn picture of a bicycle in the letter. Below the picture was an instruction: *Cut out the picture of the bicycle along the dotted line.* The letter was signed by Chill Chill! Mill Mill could not believe her sister would do such a thing to hurt her feeling.

“This is outrageous!” exclaimed Mill Mill, her eyes round and astonished. Then she sat down and cried, for the disappointment was too great for her to bear. Just then Dr Owl came home, and Mill Mill told him everything about the letters.

“Don’t be sad! I’ll buy a new bicycle for you tomorrow,” he promised Mill Mill.

Chill Chill apologised to Mill Mill. “Sister, I thought that we needed a little bit of fun together. But the result was not what I expected. I wouldn’t do this to you again,” said Chill Chill.

And then Mill Mill and Chill Chill had a big laugh together over this incident. The next morning, Dr Owl bought a bicycle for Mill Mill who was overjoyed to receive a new toy.



Reflection : *Our careless actions may cause unhappiness in others.*

Scripture : *Proverbs 14:15*

The simple believes every word,

But the prudent considers well his steps.



Reconciliation

It was raining outside. Chill Chill and Mill Mill had nothing to do at home and they were so bored. An idea suddenly came to Chill Chill and she made a suggestion to her sister. "Let us have a quarrel!"

Mill Mill thought that was a good idea. "But what should we quarrel about?"

Chill Chill thought for a moment. "Mill Mill, I hate your friends. They are so stupid. They know nothing! My friends are smart and good, not like yours," she said in contempt.

Mill Mill would not let anyone criticise her friends. "My friends are top students in our class. How can you say that they're stupid! Your friends aren't half as bright as mine! Your best friend Fluffy is as stupid as a pig. Ha ha ha!" she retorted.

"How dare you say bad things about Fluffy! She gave me a nice toy beetle last year. She's my best friend! She's much smarter than you are!" Chill Chill was getting angry with her sister.

"Fluffy is stupid! Fluffy is stupid! Fluffy is stupid! And everyone knows that! Ha ha ha!" said Mill Mill.

"Mill Mill, stop it!" Chill Chill was exasperated. However, Mill Mill did not stop. Instead, she called louder, "Fluffy is stupid! Fluffy is stupid! Fluffy is stupid!"

Chill Chill got up in a rage and went back to her room. The owl sisters from then on refused to speak to each other. At the dinner table, they were silently eating their food without looking at each other.

Dr Owl was curious to know why. "Why are you so quiet tonight? Is there something wrong?" he asked. Still, the young owls would not look at or speak to each other. There was nothing the parents could do to help break the icy silence.

Then one day, Mother Owl received a telephone call from the school. The voice said, "Mill Mill fell down the stairs and hurt her head. She is now in hospital."

Mother Owl was shocked to hear the news. She immediately flew to pick up Chill Chill from school and they hurried to the hospital together to see Mill Mill. On the way, Chill Chill was extremely worried because she loved her sister very much. "I hope Mill Mill is well," she said to her mother.

In the hospital, Chill Chill rushed to Mill Mill's bedside. "Sister, are you alright? Please speak to me! Try to say something!"

Mill Mill opened her eyes slowly and answered her sister in a weak voice, "I'm so glad that you've come to see me. I've been waiting for you to come since early this morning."

Chill Chill was much relieved to see that her sister was not seriously hurt. "Mill Mill, let us end our quarrel right now and be good friends again!"

Chill Chill took Mill Mill's hands and nodded, smiling.

Mother Owl was glad that her daughters agreed to end their quarrel. "Yes, let there be peace in our home again," said Mother Owl approvingly.



Reflection : Friendship should be cultivated with love and faithfulness.

Scripture : Proverbs 17:17
A friend loves at all times,
And a brother is born for adversity.



Hate

Mill Mill came back from school. Mother Owl noticed that she was unhappy about something. She sat down in angry and sullen silence.

"Mother, I hate school!" Mill Mill complained.

"But why?" asked Mother Owl.

"I hate my classmates. They made fun of me," said Mill Mill.

"I'm sure they didn't mean harm," Mother Owl assured her daughter.

"I hate them all the same!" Mill Mill would not be comforted.

At dinnertime, Mother Owl served some vegetables to her daughters.

"Mother, I hate vegetables! Why can't you give me something which I like?" Mill Mill pushed the food away from her.

"How about fish?" Mother Owl asked.

"No, no, no! I hate fish! I hate fish!" Mill Mill called out, hitting hard on the table with her spoon.

After dinner, it was time for doing homework.

"I really hate homework. My teacher has given me too much homework, leaving me no time for fun. I really hate that!" said Mill Mill.

And so, she put her homework aside and went out to play.

When it was time for bed, Mill Mill wanted to stay up longer to play with her toy beetles.

"Mother, I hate to go to bed so early. I hate it! I really hate it!" said Mill Mill angrily.

"Alright, but you have to go to bed before ten o'clock," Mother Owl told her.

When it was time to get up next morning, Mill Mill felt very sleepy and found it hard to get up from her comfortable bed.

"I hate getting up! Mother, can I sleep a little bit more?" she called out to her mother who was preparing breakfast in the kitchen.

"Mill Mill, you seem to hate everything! You are such a grumpy bird!" Mother Owl said, shaking her head helplessly.

"Yes, Mother, that's the way I love to feel. I hate everything in the whole wide world, and nobody can change that! I even hate myself!" said Mill Mill defiantly.

Mother Owl paused, trying to find the right words. "Mill Mill, you can't live your life like that! The more you hate, the more unhappy you will become," she said.

"Mother, that is exactly how I feel. Everything seems wrong with this world. I think that I am the most miserable bird around!" Mill Mill apparently enjoyed her little show of defiance.

"Mill Mill, let me sing a song for you," suggested Mother Owl. Then she sang the most touching song Mill Mill had ever heard.

*I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul!
I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my heart!*

“Mother, I like this song, but why is peace like a river?” Mill Mill was curious.

“It’s because the river carries all your worries away far out to the sea and the pure river water cleanses your body and soul. That’s how the river can give you peace!” Mother Owl said.

“Mother, I like this song. Can you teach me to sing it?” Mill Mil asked.

“Sure, dear. This song will take all the hate away from your life,” Mother Owl smilingly said. “You’ll be a happier owl!”



Reflection : *Cleanse all grudges from your mind and leave only gentleness and patience there.*

Scripture : *1 Timothy 6:11*

But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.