

## *The Turtle and the Osprey*

### *A tale from Zimbabwe*

"Don't set sail using someone else's star," Turtle's wife said to him. She always said this to her husband. He wanted to learn to fly.

"I must visit my friend," Turtle told his wife. "And how will I visit him if I do not learn to fly?"

Turtle did not know what to do about the problem. He and bird were best friends. Many times, on his way home to the trees, bird stopped for a visit.

Osprey always asked Turtle to visit him in his treetop home. Turtle always said no. He could not reach the treetops.

"How can I let him down that way?" Turtle said. "I'll find a way."

All the animals laughed at him. During the next few days, Turtle walked around looking for an idea. Then he found one.

He hurried home. "I've got it!" he said to his wife. "I can fly, if only you will help me."

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"I do not think this is a good idea," his wife said.

"But this is my dream!" Tortoise said. His wife helped.

The next day, Osprey went to see Turtle but he was not home.

Mrs. Turtle said, "I'm so sorry, but my husband had to go away, but he left you a gift."

Mrs. Turtle gave bird a big bundle of leaves. Bird picked it up and started to fly home.

What bird did not know was that turtle was inside the leaves.

Bird flew on and Turtle was tired. Turtle made a noise which surprised bird. He dropped the bundle of leaves. It fell to the ground.

Turtle was hurt and his shell was cracked. He told his wife the story, and she laughed.

When bird heard the story, he visited Turtle to cheer him up. "We all have our place in this world, my friend," Bird said. From then on, all turtles had cracks on their shells.

