

The Singing Souls

Once upon a time, in a faraway land, there lived a group of people called the Singing Souls. They communicated with each other by singing. But one day a disaster came upon them. A big crack in the ground appeared from nowhere and all the songs got sucked into it so that neither child or adult could sing and therefore communicate. Noah (the teddy bear) was the only one whose songs did not get sucked into the crack, so he decided to go there and try to retrieve all the songs.

The next day he set off armed only with a bucket, a huge sack and a 100-mile-long rope. He started the treacherous journey to the crack that was situated at the top of a mountain. He climbed and climbed and all of a sudden, a blizzard arose and nearly blew him off the mountain! As he knew that there was no point trying to keep going on, he found a cave that had been dug out by other climbers and decided to rest in it. He used the bag as a sleeping bag and got comfortable to sleep. As dawn broke out, and the morning birds started singing, Noah packed the bag away and continued his trek to the top of the mountain. He arrived at the crack just as the sun was setting so he decided to wait until morning to start retrieving the songs.

The following morning, he started preparing his rope and bucket. He tied one end of the rope to the handle of the bucket and then threw the bucket down into the crack. The rope started unwinding in Noah's hands and after a while the rope was already half-used! The rope dropped a little more and suddenly, Noah was able to hear the faintest *lalala*.... which meant that he had reached the songs! He brought the bucket back up and tipped all its content (which were the songs) into his huge sack and lowered the bucket into the crack again to get all the songs. He repeated this until he could hear no more sound when he lowered his bucket and he knew that meant that he had collected all the songs.

So, with his bag full of songs, he started his journey back to his village. When the sun started setting, he found the cave he had slept in when the blizzard had struck and went to sleep-this time without the bag to use as a sleeping bag because it was full of songs. When he woke up, he finished his journey down the mountain and arrived at his village in the afternoon. Immediately, he started going to every villager and giving them songs so that they could communicate. They had a big feast, and it was arranged that a team of men would go up to the crack and close it so that no song would be lost ever again.