

The Blanket of Light

A fable by Sara K.

A long time ago, there was an old and compassionate woman that lived on the moon. She was known as Lumina, the lady of the moon. She had hair as gray as a wolf's mane and skin as white and wrinkled as a crumpled piece of parchment. Lumina loved the moon very much, so she decided to knit a warm blanket for him. She gathered the shiniest moon dust she could find to make brilliant golden thread. She knit the shiny thread together to create a Blanket of Light. The dark moon loved Lumina's gift, and he would sleep with the Blanket of Light every night. The blanket would light up the entire earth providing comfort to all living things; however, the light could not reach the animals that lived under the tall, looming trees of the forest.

The animals of the forest were tired of living nights of complete darkness, so they all went to the smartest animal of the forest...a wise, old owl named Otis. Otis, in his wisdom, decided to meditate on the horrible problem. Unfortunately, all the brash, little flies overheard and decide to act alone. That night, while Otis slept, all of the little flies travelled to the moon, and each fly pulled a small thread from the Blanket of Light without Lumina noticing.

Before they knew what had happened, the excited, little flies had taken all the golden thread from the Blanket of Light. The little flies wrapped their threads around their waists and rushed back to earth. When they arrived back in the forest, all of the animals were very delighted to see the beautiful light emanating from the flies. The lemurs were the only ones who were not happy to see the flies. When the flies asked the lemur what was wrong, the lemurs said, "We are scared of the bright fire coming from you, little fireflies."

Without the blanket of light, the moon was dark. Outside of the forest, all of the animals on earth had to spend their nights in complete darkness. When Lumina discovered that the Blanket of Light

was “stolen,” she was dismayed that anybody would do such a thing. In her frail condition, she left the moon and traveled to the earth to search for the blanket.

Lumina searched for many years, visiting the grasslands, the deserts, the oceans, the tundra, and the mountains. At last she came upon the forest. As she entered the forest, all of the forest animals gathered around her for Lumina was known far and wide. Nelly the monkey spoke first, “Welcome to the forest Lumina. What brings you so far from home?”

“Thank you for your welcome,” Lumina replied. “I am searching for the Blanket of Light. It is a gift I made for the moon. Somebody has stolen it.”

Nelly looked at the other animals, and the other animals looked at her. Nelly confessed, “Our forest is lit at night because of the fireflies. They have the thread that makes the Blanket of Light.”

Lumina and the forest animals started to argue with each other. She explained that the blanket was a treasured gift to the moon and that everyone should enjoy the moonlight that comes from it. The forest animals explained that the moonlight never reached them because of the tall, looming trees covering them. They had not meant to steal the Blanket of Light, but they needed the shiny thread from it to illuminate the dark forest nights.

All the commotion woke wise, old Otis. Upon learning what had happened, Otis insisted that the fireflies gather the thread and return it to Lumina. As Lumina left with the blanket, she turned back and saw all the forest animals sad in the darkness. She turned to Otis and said, “Maybe we can share the Blanket of Light?”

As Otis listened, Lumina suggested, “I will take the threads with me to cover the moon with the Blanket of Light. But every month, send your fireflies to borrow the thread from me.”

Otis asked, “But will not the moon be dark then and the earth void of moonlight?”

Lumina answered, "The other animals on earth will understand if the earth's night is dark once a month to help illuminate the forest. We will call that day the "New Moon," and it will mark the beginning of every month."

Otis and Lumina agreed. This arrangement worked for one month, and then the next, and then the next. It has continued throughout the ages. This is why once every lunar month, we cannot see the moon at all.