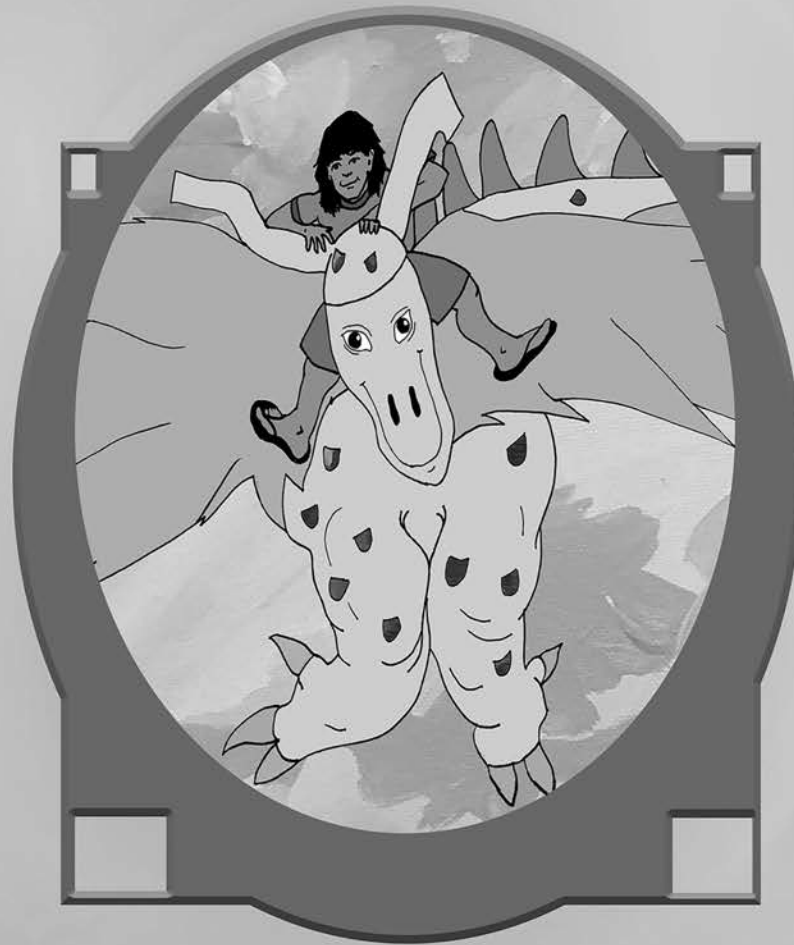


Prince Lazaro and the Magic Scales

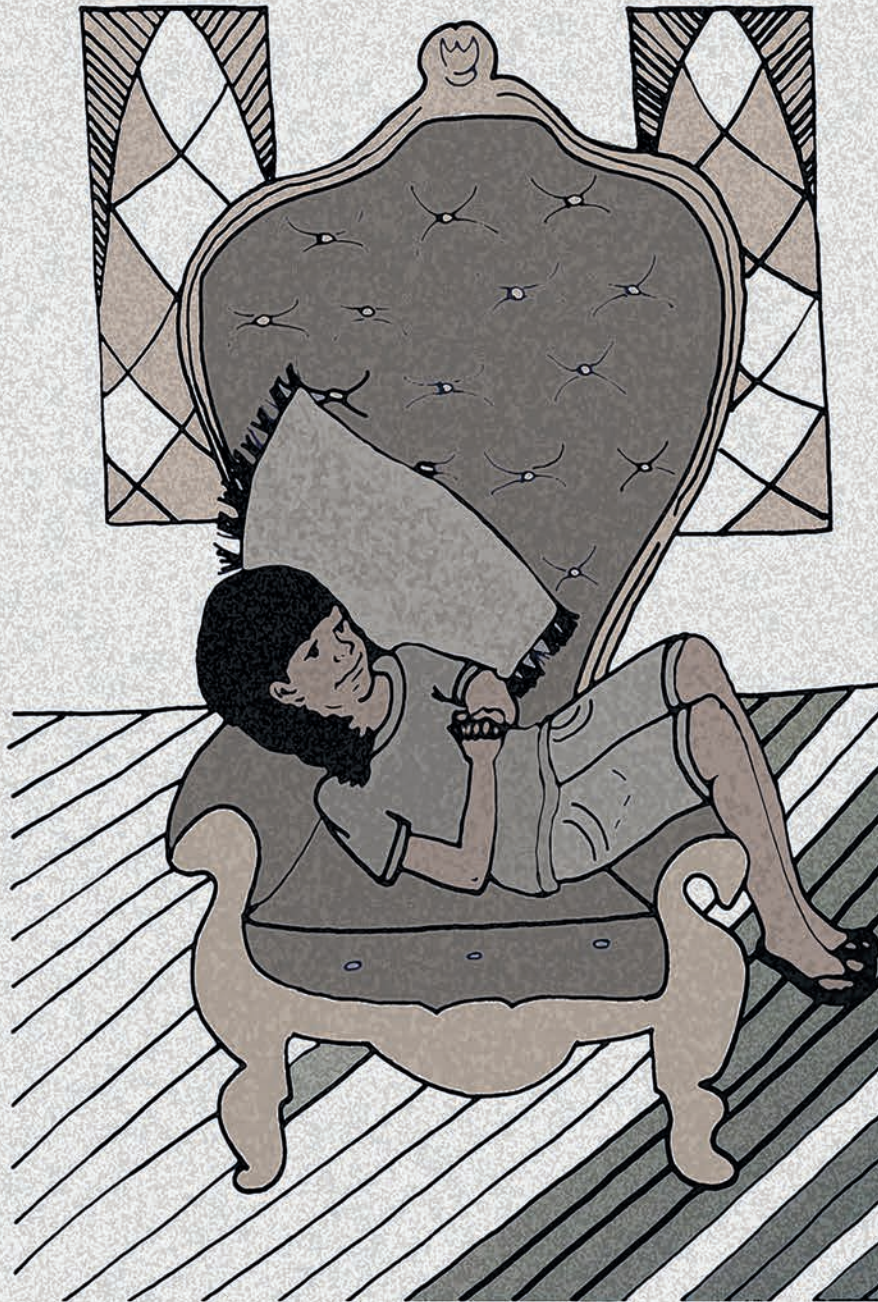


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Prince Lazaro and the Magic Scales
Come and Play! Exploring Animal Friends**

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Once upon a time...

Prince Lazaro sat on his throne. Every day was the same. The villagers were farming and selling their wares. His father, King Lazaro the 1st, and his mother, Queen Helen, were barking their usual orders and deciding which country to invade.

Poor Prince Lazaro. No matter the chaos, he was always left alone. He wished he had someone to play with.

"What to do..." sighed Lazaro.

He sat and twiddled his fingers and daydreamed about the adventures he could have, if only he had a friend or two to play with.

Poor Prince Lazaro

decided to go outside and see if there was someone around who might want to run and jump, look at the birds, play tag or football, anything at all.

He headed over the castle's moat and began to wander east, spotting a fox and rabbit running near the woods and hoped they might want to play.

It wasn't long before he was deep into the woods. He'd been told not to go there before. How he longed for running and jumping and playing hide and seek.

The woods seemed very dark and there was no sign of the rabbit or the fox. Prince Lazaro started to wonder if he'd gone too far, for the trees and flowers no longer seemed familiar.





Prince Lazaro

trudged on through the forest hoping he would spy another animal or person. He started to get tired and tripped coming down a small hill. He put his hands out to block his fall, but all he could see was a tree with a crack in it coming right towards him.

Right as he was going to crash head-first into the tree, the strangest thing happened. Instead of getting hurt he felt himself soar into a strangely colored space – where all the colors of the world swirled towards him.

There was an abrupt thud. He sat up and shook his head. Where he landed was no longer familiar.

Everything around

Prince Lazaro was vivid, lush and beautiful. The greyness of his father's kingdom had evaporated. He couldn't believe his eyes.

The flowers smelled amazing and he felt an intense happiness. Even a nearby butterfly seemed happy.

Just then he started to hear a wailing sound. It grew louder and reminded him of a sound he'd heard when his father had brought some whales back after one of his wars.





Prince Lazaro

lifted his head and focused his attention on a cave he saw in the distance. He decided he had to see what was making all that noise. The prince approached the edge of the cave, but was careful to hide himself as he tried to peer in.

To his amazement, a magnificent dragon stood before him, chained heavily to posts that had been plowed into the ground.

The dragon breathed out fire and smoke while pulling and twisting at his chains. Prince Lazaro began to tremble but knew what he had to do.

With a quick jump over some rocks he landed right in front of the dragon and announced, "I am here to save you. I am Prince Lazaro, and I want to be your friend!"

The dragon took

a step back and said, "they'll be coming back soon."

"Who are they?" the Prince asked. The dragon stomped and shook his chains and said, "the evil men who want my magic silver scales."

"What can I do to help you?" asked Prince Lazaro.

"Before they left, they hid a golden saw. See if you can find it. If you can, I will take you anywhere. The saw can slice through anything. It's enchanted."





Prince Lazaro leapt

forward in a hurry to free the dragon. He began to worry about the bad men who would be back soon. He landed behind the dragon and raised a cloud of dust. The golden saw shone brightly, almost pulsating, like the sun. Prince Lazaro grabbed the saw which seemed to squirm with a life of its own.

The dragon said, "you must ask it to cut the chains. Ask it nicely. It has a mind of its own."

Prince Lazaro set

the saw near the dragon.

He took a step back and said, "oh please, beautiful golden saw, please free this dragon."

The saw floated gracefully in the air and landed in Prince Lazaro's hand. It began to cut through the thick metal chains, one after the other, moving easily. It only took a few seconds and then the dragon was free.





It was then

that Prince Lazaro heard the laughter and sounds of men approaching. Prince Lazaro peaked outside the cave and saw the men were coming back. Prince Lazaro began to get very nervous.

"I can put you on my back," said the dragon, "but we have to hurry. Oh, and Don't forget the saw. It might come in handy!"

Prince Lazaro pulled himself onto the dragon's back.

The dragon moved forward, each step shaking the ground beneath them. The dragon spread his wings and jumped into the air.

It was exactly

at this point that the men reached the cave and were knocked to the ground as the dragon took flight. They angrily shook their fists and cursed Prince Lazaro and the dragon. But it was too late – the dragon was free.

"My name is Deluthian, but you can call me Del," the dragon explained to Prince Lazaro. "This is a special land," he said, "I will take you to some of my favorite places."

The dragon rose into the air, even higher and checked behind him. In the distance he could see the men had begun readying a zeppelin that lay below. Deluthian didn't care. He zoomed into the air at top speed and disappeared into the clouds.





"You're really going

to like this first place," said Deluthian, "and, thanks for rescuing me."

Prince Lazaro was stunned at what he was seeing--spectacular shimmering grass surrounded by mountains.

Deluthian said, "I used to come here as a young dragon. My father was never too busy to make sure we had some special time together. We would come here and run and play. This is also where he taught me to command my fire breath."

"You are really lucky to have a Dad like that," said Prince Lazaro. "My Dad is always really busy, and never has time for fun with me."

"Then let's stay here and play a while," said Deluthian.

Deluthian and the

young prince romped through the fields and raced each other. But the dragon was always mindful of keeping an eye out for his captors.

The sky had darkened as they talked and walked further into the mountains. By now, the prince and Dragon had shared many secrets, laughs, and stories.

Just as they reached another powerful view of the mountains the dragon spied the zeppelin heading towards them.

"Whoops!" he yelled, "it's time to go!"





Deluthian zoomed back
into the clouds, with Prince Lazaro hanging
tight for his life.

"Maybe they won't know this next place,"
he laughed. "They can't know everything,
right!"

As Deluthian flew

down, the clouds blew away and Prince Lazaro saw an amazing landscape. The churning and howling ocean mirrored the sky above. Deluthian gently set them down on shore.

"I need to find something to eat," the dragon said. "You must be hungry too. Let's try some fishing and build a fire. Hopefully, those men are lost in the clouds with no idea where to turn."





Deluthian quickly set

about making a fishing pole from nearby driftwood and fashioned a hook from one of his metal chains.

"Go find some earth worms and put them on this hook," he said.

Prince Lazaro said, "I've never been fishing before." He was excited about all of these fun and new experiences and set about digging for earthworms.

The dragon built a fire, and soon enough they had all the fish they needed for dinner.

"I wish we

could stay here forever," said Prince Lazaro.

But just when the prince and dragon had completely relaxed, the clouds parted and the zeppelin appeared.

"Hurry," said the dragon. "We don't have much time, and I never want to be anyone's prisoner, ever again!"

And with that, Prince Lazaro leapt onto Deluthian's back, and Deluthian zoomed into the sky once more.

Then Deluthian said, "I need to tell you something."





“What’s that?”

asked Prince Lazaro.

“My scales have magic in them. They make you happy and content, and make you see things in perspective. What’s really important and not what you think is. The men want to take the scales and sell them and make lots of money. They don’t care about anything else,” said the Dragon.

“That’s really sad,” said the Prince.

“Yes, it is. Sometimes people forget about what is really important in their lives,” said Deluthian.

“Hmmm. I wonder if that’s what’s happened to my parents,” said Prince Lazaro.

They talked through
the night as they rode.

Eventually, Deluthian said, "gratitude is one of the most important things in life. My scales help you see things clearly and help you to be grateful. They make you a better person."

"Maybe you could let me have a scale?" asked the prince. "I'd like to give it to my Dad and Mom."

"Maybe..." said Deluthian. "I'll think about it."





Suddenly, the magical
saw started making a high-pitched humming
sound.

"Why is the saw making that noise?"
asked the prince.

"It senses danger coming," said the dragon.
"We better make a plan."

They neared the
landscape of a strange and high mountainous
desert, with fields below.

"This is another favorite place," said
Deluthian.

"Let's just rest here for a bit and try and
figure out what to do about these men. It
looks like they're not going to give up."





As the day

ended with a glorious sunset, the prince and the dragon came up with a plan to forever escape from the men.

"You know," said Prince Lazaro, "it's possible that my father could help. He has an army and if we go there, he might be able to use the army to stop them."

"How about this?" asked Deluthian.

"Let's make one more stop and then we'll fly to your Dad's kingdom and see what can be done. The world is such a beautiful place and I need to share it."

They hurried

through the night sky. Deluthian only paused to fly through one more amazing place. It was an astounding forest, beautiful in its vibrance.

Deluthian looked over at Prince Lazaro and could see that he was, indeed, grateful for this moment. He couldn't wait to set things right for Prince Lazaro and the King. He just needed a little time and a little magic.





Deluthian knew

he had to quickly make a plan.

"We can't lose them now...let them come," he thought. "They need to follow us if this is going to work anyway."

As they sat together, with Deluthian explaining what needed to be done, the zeppelin appeared again!

"There isn't time

to waste!" said Deluthian. "Now, use your mind and think about your father's kingdom." Then he instructed, "when I throw this scale you toss the magic saw which will help protect us."

With that, Deluthian ripped a scale off and threw it towards the zeppelin. It glimmered in the light and both the scale and saw whooshed towards the zeppelin at an amazing speed.

"That will take them wherever we go," said Deluthian.





Deluthian and the
prince climbed ever higher into the sky.

"Make sure you're thinking really hard about your dad's kingdom," Deluthian reminded him.

Prince Lazaro thought as hard as he could about his home. Then a magical rainbow light appeared all around them.

King Lazaro

the 1st had been wandering in the woods for hours looking for his son. He had almost given up, when a tremendous explosion of lights appeared in the sky. He couldn't believe his eyes.

"What the heck?...", he said.

The king saw a giant dragon making his way down to the ground. On the dragon's back was his son, the prince!

Prince Lazaro quickly leapt from the back of Deluthian and raced toward his father.





Overjoyed, King

Lazaro rushed to hug his son.

"We have to hurry!," said Prince Lazaro.
"The bad men are coming! Call your army father!"

The king reached in his bag and pulled out a giant bullhorn and blew into it. The sound was loud and booming.

The king's army

appeared in full uniform with tanks, rifles, and horses.

"No worries king," said Deluthian. "We aren't going to hurt them. We're going to help them. First we have to get them down though."

Deluthian handed the king another one of his scales which shimmered in the light.





The scale was

filled with magic and crackled in the king's hand. King Lazaro looked at the scale closely and examined it.

Prince Lazaro began explaining, "all you have to do is capture them and put them in a room with this for five minutes. They will be cured of their greed and learn what it means to be grateful."

"And become kind," said the dragon.

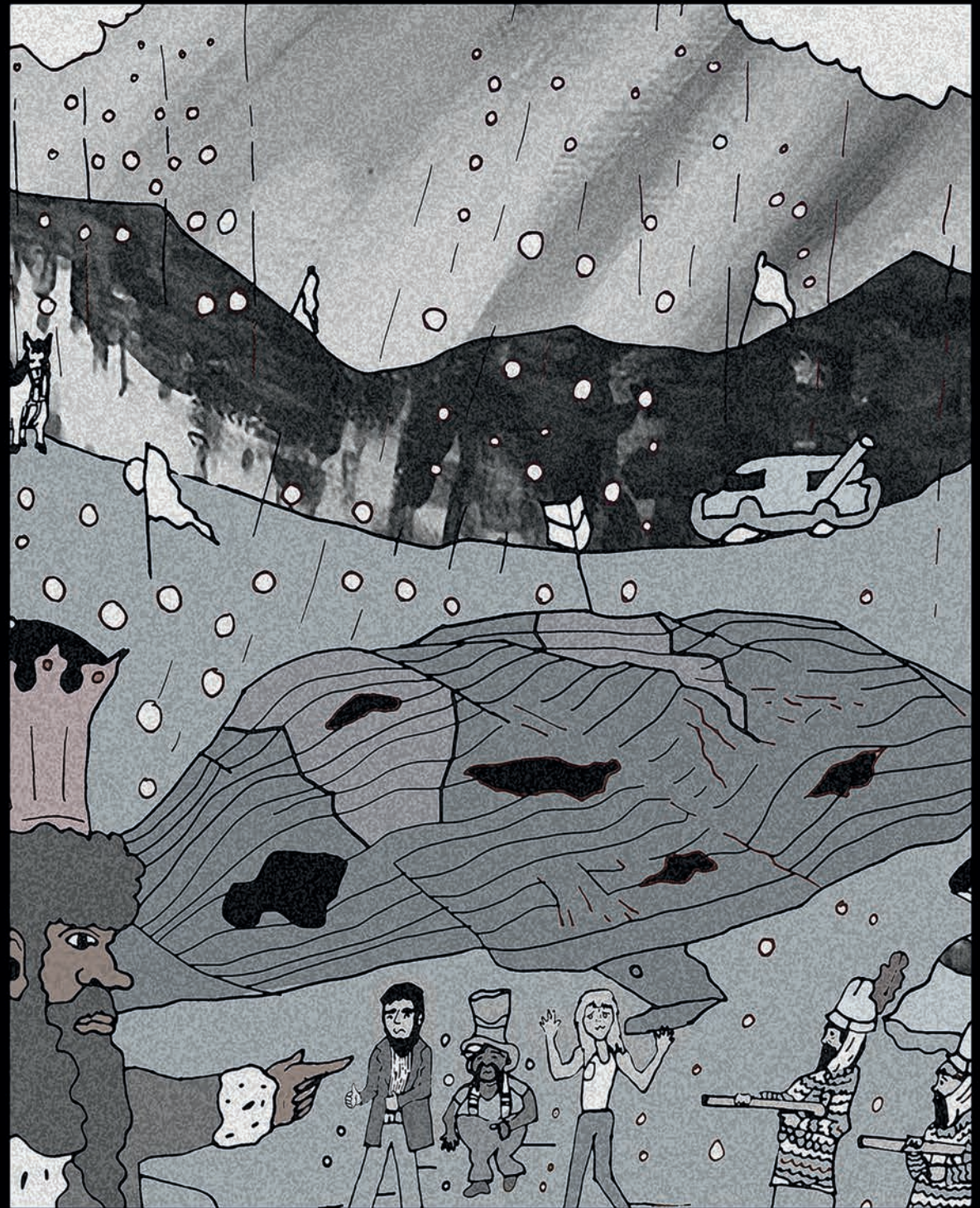
"That's amazing," said the king.

Just as hail

began to fall, the king threw the magic scale into the air and the magic saw sped off like the wind, until it reached the zeppelin and smashed down a tremendous blow...

AND!!!

The zeppelin crashed down from the sky as the hail stormed. Hundreds of soldiers raced down from the hills ready to capture the men. With no way for the three men to escape, they were wrestled under arrest.





The king's army

took the men and put them high in the castle's tower and locked them inside with the magic scale.

The king, Prince Lazaro, and Deluthian paced back and forth in the throne room waiting to see what would happen.

Finally, the hourglass announced that time was up. The prince, the king, and Deluthian raced up the stairs to see for themselves what had become of the men.

The men looked

different somehow. A bit lighter and brighter. When the king approached them, their leader offered him a flower. In fact, the scale had turned into a beautiful flower which made the world colorful and more joyful.

Their leader said, "I never realized how special flowers are. I want you to have it."

And now the king felt a stirring in his own heart.

"Tomorrow, we shall go out and have a special day together. There are great places I really want to show you," said the king to his son. "Suddenly, I feel very, very grateful," he added.

Deluthian winked at the prince.

THE END

