

## **The Little Acorn's Journey** By John Morris

In the heart of the Whispering Forest, where sunlight danced through emerald leaves and gentle breezes carried the scent of wild honeysuckle, a little acorn lay nestled in the soft earth. His name was Ollie, and though he was just a tiny seed, he dreamed of something grand.

"I want to be a mighty oak," Ollie often said to the towering trees around him. "But I am so small. What if I never grow big and strong like you?"

The Great Oak, whose branches had sheltered generations of woodland creatures, chuckled warmly. "Ah, little one, you do not yet see the wonder inside you. Within that tiny shell, you carry the heart-plan of something very special."

Ollie wiggled deeper into the soil, unsure. "But how will I ever grow? I'm just a small acorn."

The Great Oak's deep voice was filled with wisdom. "You must trust the process, Ollie. The Creator placed a spark within you, just as He has in every living thing. But it is up to you to push your roots into the earth, to reach for the sun, and to enjoy the rain when it comes. No one else can grow for you."

Ollie thought about this as the days passed. He felt the coolness of the soil around him, the warmth of the sun above, and the gentle patter of raindrops soaking into his shell.

One evening, as the sky blushed with sunset, he suddenly felt himself being picked up. Oh, what is happening? A bird had picked Ollie up and was carrying him to a new place. After what seemed like a long time, Ollie felt the bird putting him into the ground. Ollie felt safe again, back in the coolness of the dirt.

One day, something stirred deep inside him.

With a quiet crack, a tiny root stretched downward. A gentle green sprout pushed upward.

"I'm growing!" Ollie whispered in delight.

As the seasons changed, so did Ollie. His roots dug deeper, his stem grew taller, and soon, he had tiny leaves that fluttered in the wind. He was still small, but he was no longer just an acorn—he was becoming something more.

The Great Oak spoke again. “Ollie, do you see how far you’ve come?”

Ollie swayed his little leaves proudly. “Yes! But I still have such a long way to go.”

The Great Oak’s branches rustled with knowing. “That is true, little one. Your journey has taken you far beyond your forest. One day, just as you were once carried here, your acorns will be carried far beyond your new home. You will not stay in this place forever, but you will always be growing. That is the nature of life.”

Ollie shivered slightly at the thought of leaving his new home, but deep down, he understood. Growth meant change.

That night, as he gazed up at the shimmering stars, he whispered a promise to the Creator.

“I will grow. I will reach for the light. I will trust that I am becoming what I was always meant to be.”

And so, season by season, year by year, Ollie grew. He became a sapling, then a young tree, and eventually, a mighty oak whose branches stretched toward the heavens. Birds built nests in his limbs, children played in his shade, and other little acorns nestled in the earth beneath him, waiting for their turn to grow.

And through it all, Ollie never forgot the lesson of the Great Oak—that within every living being, the Creator had placed a spark, a dream-plan of something wonderful. It was up to each one to trust, to strive, and to become.