

Making Rules

With a gentle thud, the spacecycle landed. Tal leaped off, feeling curious and excited. Where was he? Could anyone help to fix his spacecycle? How soon could he return to his home planet?

Unfortunately, Tal had traveled very far and was very tired, so the exploring would have to wait. Tal snuggled down into the soft, mushy ground and quickly fell asleep.

He awoke to the sound of tiny chirping. He thought these were birds, but when he looked around, he saw nothing. Then Tal felt tiny tugs at his sleeves. He glanced down, and to his amazement, he saw hundreds of creatures, none taller than his little finger! Because their voices were so soft, Tal had to lift a creature up to his ear to hear it speak. The creature was startled to find itself whisked through the air by a giant. But Tal treated it gently, and to his surprise, he understood what the creatures had been saying. Tal began to tell the creatures about his planet. But his voice was so loud, it shook the ground, and the creatures tumbled over. Tal spoke more softly and explained that the golden dot in the heavens was his planet, and the spacecycle needed fixing in order for him to return.

Immediately, hundreds of creatures rushed to the machine, inspecting it carefully. Only one creature stayed close to Tal. This creature was the leader, and it told Tal the whole planet would try to help him. But, since Tal was such a giant, he would have to follow some rules. Then, he and the creatures could live peacefully until the spacecycle was repaired.

These were the rules:

1. Walk with great care so you do not step on us, our animals, our homes, or our spaceships.
2. Walk only on the roads, not in the fields, so our crops will be safe.
3. Speak kindly and tenderly to protect our ears.

4. Handle us gently for although we are small, we are your fellow creatures.
5. Use your giant size and strength to help us, not harm us.

The creatures lead him to a nearby village to eat and rest. Tal was careful to obey each rule. He even repaired a crumbling dam, saving a field from flooding. When the spacecycle was ready, the creatures brought it to Tal. He thanked the creatures for their kindness, and they thanked Tal in return.

As his spacecycle shot into sky, Tal felt happy, not only to be returning home but also because of the news friends he had made. Soon, the golden dot in space grew larger and larger, welcoming Tal back.