

Ida and the Tiny Bridge

Good ideas grow when we look closely.



Ida carried a basket of daisies through the garden every morning. Today, rain had filled the little channel across her path. She stopped at its muddy edge.



A line of ants stopped too. Their home was on the other side. Ida could step across, but the ants could not. She set down her basket.



'You need a bridge,' she said. She laid a long leaf over the water. It looked lovely until the middle dipped and the leaf floated slowly away.



Ida fetched a dry twig. It reached from bank to bank, but it rolled when she touched it. The ants waited beneath a tall, sheltering blade of grass.



She sat beside them and looked carefully. The banks were soft. The twig was round. Perhaps a bridge needed steady feet before it needed a crossing.



Ida chose two flat stones and pressed one into each bank. Then she found a broad piece of fallen bark, light enough to carry in both paws.



The bark rested on the stones. Ida tapped one end, then the other. Nothing rolled. She watched a drop of water slip safely beneath its curved middle.



One ant walked towards the bridge, then turned back. A rough splinter blocked the entrance. Ida had been looking from above. She lowered her nose to ant height.



'Oh! I see,' she whispered. She brushed the loose splinter away and placed a little ramp of firm earth at each end. The entrance was clear now.



The first ant crossed. Then another followed, carrying a seed almost as large as its head. Ida stayed still while the busy line moved over the water.



Later, Rabbit admired the tiny bridge. 'It is very small,' he said. Ida smiled. 'Yes. I made it for small travellers.' They watched another seed go past.



Ida picked up her daisies and stepped across downstream. Behind her, the little bridge stayed steady. Looking closely had helped her build something just the right size.

The End

A little story. A moment to share.

What did you notice?

Which moment would you like to talk about?



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