

Nico and the Lost Echo

A question leads to a surprising discovery.



Nico liked calling to the rocky wall beside the woodland path. 'Hello!' he chirped. 'Hello!' the wall seemed to answer. He called it his hidden woodland friend.



One breezy morning, Nico brought his cousin Suri to meet the voice. He chirped beside a patch of reeds. Nothing answered except the rustle of dry leaves.



'My friend has gone,' Nico said. Suri tilted her blue head. 'Where were you standing before?' Nico pointed along the path. They flew to a low branch there.



He called again. A faint chirp came back. Nico's feathers lifted with excitement. 'There you are!' he cried. His own words fluttered softly back towards him.



Suri tried a whistle. The hidden voice whistled too. Then they both stayed quiet. The wall stayed quiet. Nico began to wonder what sort of friend this was.



Old Heron was passing along the stream. 'What have you noticed?' she asked. Nico explained the answering voice, the quiet reeds and the whistle that matched Suri's.



'That is an echo,' Heron said. 'Sound can bounce back from a hard surface. The rocky wall sends some of your sound back to your ears.'



Nico looked at the wall. He chirped once, then listened. A smaller chirp returned. 'So it is my voice making another journey?' Heron nodded. 'A short one.'



They tried from the open meadow. No clear answer came back. Then they returned to the branch beside the wall. This time, they knew what to listen for.



Suri made two short whistles. Nico heard two faint replies. He tried one long note. The echo followed, stretching softly across the space beside the stream.



Nico felt a little sad that there was no hidden bird. Then Suri bumped his wing. 'You still have someone to whistle with,' she said, and whistled again.



Together, they made a small song beside the rocky wall. Two real friends sang, and their echoes answered. Nico's woodland mystery had become a wonderful new thing to know.

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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